



Welcoming Remarks

By

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National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)

National Research Symposium 2015

Hilton Hotel, Windhoek

23 September 2015

Director of Ceremonies;

Hon Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation

Prof Andre du Pisani, Chairperson of the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology;

Commissioners of National Commission on Research, Science and Technology;

Representatives from Government Ministries and SOEs,

Representatives from the Private Sector,

Representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations,

Researchers and Scientists

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The National Research Symposium 2015 represents an important milestone in our country's science, technology and innovation landscape and indeed in the history of our great Nation.

As you are aware, early this year, Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia approved the three year NPRSTI which was subsequently tabled in Parliament launched in March 2015, becoming the first National Research and innovation Agenda for Namibia.

One on the 5 key strategic priorities in the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation is *“Disseminating Scientist and Technological Knowledge, looking towards a growing involvement of institutions researchers, enterprise and entire population”*. Under this strategic priority a key initiative has been formulated that speaks to the promotion of dissemination and publication of research results. It is through this initiative that the National Research Conference is organized annually, where Namibian researchers are given an opportunity to present their research findings.

The theme for the Research Symposium 2015 *“Research weaving the future and beyond”* resonates very well with the mantra of the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation for 2014/15 to 2016/17, which is the national research agenda contribution to the transformation of our economy into a knowledge based society. As a country, we have set ourselves ambitious targets which we must achieve for science, technology and innovation to contribute to the achievement of National Development Plan objectives. The hosting of this Symposium thus signifies our commitment to achieving those targets that we have set for ourselves as Nation.

Ladies and gentlemen, shortly we are going to find out more about the National Research Symposium, in terms of how the research topics being presented are aligned to national research priority areas which address and contribute to solving the primary social and economic challenges of

Namibia. History, experience and evidence-based facts have shown that economic growth is always accompanied by research output and technological advancement. The National Research and Development Survey and the National Innovation Survey, which was launched by the Minister of Higher Education and Innovation, Honourable Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, at the beginning of this month is expected to produce data that can help in understanding the size and shape of the Namibia R&D landscape and their use in system-level planning, monitoring and evaluation. We are thus moving closer to understanding our R&D and Innovation activities in terms of input and output.

The NCRST is pleased to note that researchers have taken advantage of this opportunities to submit papers which are being presented at this National Research Symposium. I am further pleased with the high quality and applicability of the current symposium research papers and I believe there is a lot of application of research results out there since they cover all 15 research priority areas as identified in the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation for 2014/15 to 2016/17.

I am confident that the National Research Symposium will grow from strength to strength and that a conversation will increase not only among the research academic community but also between academia and industry, which will provide opportunity for taking research output from the laboratories to the market. With these few words I would like to welcome you all heartedly to this very important symposium.

I thank you.