



Statement

By

Dr. Eino Mvula

The Chief Executive Officer

of the

National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)

At the Signing Ceremony of a Memorandum of Agreement between
the NCRST and UNAM

5 August 2014

UNAM

Prof Lazarus Hangula, Vice Chancellor, University of Namibia,

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a singular honour and pleasure to welcome you this morning at the occasion of the signing ceremony of the service level agreement between the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), as the client and the University of Namibia as the service provider through its Center for Multidisciplinary Research (MRC).

The National Commission on Research Science and Technology (NCRST) in collaboration with the Namibia Statistic Agency are mandated through the National Program for Research, Science and Technology and Innovation to conduct a National Research and Development (R&D) Survey, as well as a National Innovation Survey to establish core Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators.

Last year the NCRST and NSA signed a memorandum of understanding which lays the foundation for collaborative and strategic partnership between our two institutions which is aimed at establishing a formal basis for cooperation in areas of research

development and innovation surveys. The NCRST /NSA agreement provides for the establishment of a Joint technical committee which has clear Terms of References. One of the deliberation output from the Joint Technical Committee Meeting was to appoint an experienced service provider to conduct the conducting two Surveys, The Research & Development Survey (R&D Survey) and the Innovation Survey.

It was on this basis that UNAM MRC was approached. In terms of this Agreement, UNAM as the service provider will be conducting two Surveys, The Research & Development Survey (R&D Survey) and the Innovation Survey. This agreement signifies the confidence that the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) as an agency mandated with the co-ordination, monitoring and supervision of all research, science and technology activities in Namibia, place on the competence and capability of our institutions of higher learning in performing quality research.

Further we also believe that our institutions of higher learning should be given opportunities to perform some of these project as they make use of students, thereby building capacity in the process.

In our work, we would ensure that RSTI indicators for Namibia are established according to international and regional practices. This will allow future setting up of very specific targets as well as carrying

out benchmarking studies, comparing Namibia's RSTI policies and performance with those of other countries.

It is for this reason that the NCRST and the New Economic Partnership for African Development - African Science, Technology and Innovation Initiative (NEPAD/ASTII), Centre of STI Indicators at the South African Human Sciences Research Council (CesTII/HSRC) have also co-organised the several training workshop since last year. The more recent ones were held from 13 to 17 July 2015 to impart skills to support the national implementation of sustainable and coordinated data gathering methodologies to develop and using STI indicators and creating awareness among stakeholders on the importance of STI indicators and related evidence-based policy for a knowledge-based economy.

As stated in Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), the overall goal of African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicator Initiative (ASTII) is to contribute to improving the quality of STI policies at national, regional and continental levels, by strengthening Africa's capacity to develop and use STI indicators to address our developmental challenges.

I look forward to the successful execution of this project by our two institutions.