



Welcoming Remarks

By

Dr. Eino Mvula

Chief Executive Officer

National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)

The Launch of the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) census  
(2013/14 fiscal year)

Windhoek Country Club and Resort

09 March 2017

Director of Ceremonies;

Hon. Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation;

Dr Neo Molotja, Senior Research Specialist, Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII), |Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa;

Fellow Commissioners of the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST);

Dr. John Shoopala, Chairperson of the NCRST;

Representatives from Government Ministries and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs);

Representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations;

Distinguished Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Fellow academic, Researcher and Innovators;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning!

I am deeply honoured to be here at the official launch of the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) census (2013/14 fiscal year). On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and staff of the NCRST, allow me to extend a

warm welcome to all of you. We sincerely thank you for accepting our invitation to witness this important accession.

The report that will be launched today marks an important milestone in our country's science, technology and innovation landscape and indeed in the history of our great Nation, as it presents the first ever comprehensive set of indicators based on the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) survey (2013/14 fiscal year).

As a specialized Agency of government, responsible for promoting, coordinating and developing research, science, technology and innovation in Namibia, the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) is also mandated in terms of section 18 of the Research, Science and Technology Act of 2004, to coordinate the development of a National Programme for Research, Science and Technology. During the development of the National Programme for Research, Science Technology and Innovation for 2014/15 to 2016/17, effort was made to obtain information on the Research, Development and Innovation landscape in Namibia in terms of input and output data. This was necessary to understand where we are as a country, for us to formulate appropriate targets and initiatives. Unfortunately, it was difficult for us to find quality data on R&D, and we are informed that the same challenge was experience during NDP4 formulation phase. It is against this backdrop that the establishment of STI indicators, was made a key priority both in the NCRST Strategic Plan (2014/15 to

2018/19) as well as the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (2014/15 to 206/17).

The data contained in this report are important as they help in understanding the size and shape of the Namibia R&D landscape and their use in system-level planning, monitoring and evaluation.

For the first time, Namibia has now reliable data ready to be used in formulating evidence based policy, just in time as the country embarks on the process of formulation of the fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) planning and the next National Programme on RSTI.

A project of this magnitude requires close cooperation between the various stakeholders because of the resource constraints we are facing, not only on the financial side, but also on the human resource side. We thank all stakeholders for their support and cooperation.

I thank you.