



## Overview of the NCRST Strategy

By

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The Chairperson

of the

National Commission on Research, Science and Technology

At

The Launch of the NCRST Strategic Plan and Website

16 April 2014

Safari Court Hotel

Director of Ceremonies,  
Hon. Dr. David Namwandi, Minister of Education,  
Fellow NCRST Commissioners  
Dr. Eino Mvula, CEO of the National Commission on Research, Science  
and Technology,  
NCRST Staff Members  
Representatives from Government Ministries and SOEs,  
Representatives from the Private Sector,  
Representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations,  
Fellow Researchers and Innovators,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Welcome and thank you for accepting our invitation to this event of the launch of our Strategic Plan for the years 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 as well as the launch of our website.

On 24 and 25 March this year, the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology held a National Consultative Workshop on the Development of the National Research, Science, Technology and Innovation Programme (NRSTIP). The Research, Science and Technology Act of Namibia Act No. 23 of 2004, provided for the National Research, Science, Technology and Innovation Programme (Section 18). The genesis of the National Research, Science, Technology and Innovation Programme lies in

the 1999 National Policy on Research, Science and Technology and its legal anchor is the National Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act No. 23 of 2004). In its evolution and more recent iteration, the National Research, Science, Technology and Innovation Programme, responds to a number of National policy framings, notably: Vision 2030 and NDP4, as well as various international policy documents, chief among these: the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), relevant parts of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU-NEPAD), and the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Protocol of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The overriding purpose of these consultations was to engage critically and creatively with the Draft NRSTIP, so as to provide strategic focus to the work of the NCRST and national direction in the domains of RSTI. This was because stakeholders engagement is at the heart of our duty as NCRST. Our gathering this morning is thus particularly focused on stakeholders' engagement which is inspired by the underlying philosophy of our strategy.

On behalf of fellow Commissioners, I am delighted to share with you our strategy for NCRST. It took a while to follow the necessary governance processes as outlined in the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act, 2006 (Act No 2. Of 2006), but we are glad that we able to finally share it with you today. Two workshops were held - one in December and one in January. The selected NCRST staff members (a mixture of managerial and professional staff) worked systematically towards a strategy document. Under the mantra of *'Fostering Excellence through Knowledge and Innovation'*

the Strategic Plan of the NCRST was finalized in March 2014 and approved by the Commission at a Special Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and dully submitted to the Minister of Education, Hon David Namwandi.

We are aware that in a new organisation in particular this remains somewhat of a working document, since the experiences of the first year or two will enable the organisation to formulate a more concise strategy. It remains a dynamic process and thus the document would remain open and adaptive.

Our strategy is grounded in the objectives of the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2006 (Act No. 23 of 2004) and it resonates powerfully with Vision 2030 – the long-term development frame of the country – and speaks to other relevant national development documents, such as NDP4. Our Strategy recognizes the need to make RSTI an integral part of the socio-economic development processes and an enabler for the creation, and adoption of technologies and enhanced capacities in support of national development priorities.

During the Strategy formulation process we have identified some of the weaknesses in the national system of innovation, related to the lack of public awareness on the importance of RSTI, lack of corporation among all actors in the RSTI delivery funnel, and limitations that could be presented by the current policy and regulatory framework. In order to realize maximum benefits arising from RSTI, the NCRST Strategic Plan pivots around three (3) strategic themes over the next five years. These are:

- Further public understanding of and interest in RSTI in Namibia.
- Deepen stakeholder cooperation and strategic alignment around RSTI, and
- Align and integrate a supporting regulatory environment for RSTI in Namibia.

As a Commission we are guided by the principles of openness and transparency in all our work. We strive to further value based behaviour, engaging and relating, decision making and action, and have thus adopted the following values:

- *Integrity*-We are seen to be consistently trustworthy and honest in the way we deal with the NCRST work;
- *Pro-activeness*-We generally do not need to be asked to act nor do we need detailed instructions, we make things happen, guided by a clear purpose.
- *Passion for excellence*-We start with getting clear on the end state we wish to achieve and we push on towards it every day, doing it well and constantly improving.

Stakeholders interacting with the NCRST and its representatives should consistently experience these values in all interactions and decisions, and all staff members are expected to consciously practice the values in order to develop a consistent values-based approach.

Our strategy is further inspired by the governance principle of accountability, and geared towards meeting the requirements of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act, 2006 (Act No 2. Of 2006). The Commissioners of the NCRST will soon sign performance agreements with the Minister of Education to ensure compliance and adherence to this plan, as required by the SOEG Act.

Our targets and timelines are ambitious because we are committed to deliver and are aware that time is not on our side. As a country, Namibia's ranking on the Global Innovation Index is not encouraging at the moment. It is time that we gear ourselves to become globally competitive and strengthens our national system of innovation to meaningfully contribute to the socio-economic development. Although, some data might not be that reliable, the Commission will take stock of the current Research, Science, Technology and Innovation landscape, and work with all stakeholders to change the status quo, through the implementation of the three National Research, Science, Technology and Innovation Program 2014/15 to 2016/17, which will be finalized and launched in the next few months.

On behalf of myself and my fellow Commissioners, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Minister, Dr. David Namwandi for his continues support and guidance and also commend the NCRST team for seriously taking the vision of the Board of Commissioners and drafting a clear and tangible document in the brief few months that NCRST has been operational. I encourage the NCRST staff to make the implementation of this

plan a reality, through the development and implementation of the annual business plans at organisational and departmental level, while cascading it into individual score cards supported by the Performance Management System..

As I already mentioned earlier, stakeholder's engagement is central to our strategy. In August 2013, tenders went out for the design of the NCRST website. The website which is being formally launched today form part of our communication strategy that will give the NCRST a virtual presence and enhance our communication with researchers and other important institutions.

As we commence the new financial year, we would like to thank our esteemed stakeholders for your cooperation and support during the past financial year. We call upon you, our valued stakeholders to join us on this road to success in establishing a vibrant system of innovation in Namibia.

I thank you.