



Speech by John Sifani General Manager Innovation &
Technology Development -NCRST

On the occasion of

Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) World Metrology
Day

20 May 2014

Hon Isak Katali Minister of Mines and Energy

Hon Calle Schlettwein Minister of Trade and Industry

Members of Parliament

Dr Martha Kandawa – Schulz Chairperson of NSI

Mr Riundja Ali Kaukunga (Othy) CEO of NSI

Director of ceremonies

Members of Media

All protocol observed

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you this morning and deliver a statement on the role of Measurements in Energy Research and Innovation on this special occasion to commemorate the World Metrology Day.

The Namibian Government has long recognized the importance of Research, Science and Technology as the potential engine of economic growth and development, hence the adoption of the national policy on Research, Science and Technology as early as 1999 and the enactment of the Research Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act no 23 of 2004) which paved way for the establishment of the National Commission on Research Science and Technology (NCRST).

The Research, Science and Technology Act (RST) Act of 2004 (Act no. 23 of 2004) provides the development of the National RSTI Programme (NRSTIP) which is envisaged at setting Namibia's priority Research and Innovation agenda which is in conformity with the provisions of Vision 2030 and NDP4.

The Energy sector has been identified as one of the priorities for funding under the NRSTIP with the following strategic initiatives:

Promote research and development programme relating to alternate energy sources such as solar energy, biomass, wind and other renewable energy sources to supplement the current traditional energy sources;

Support research aimed at upgrading hydropower energy production technology;

Promote research and development efforts aimed at popularization and dissemination of energy technology for rural development;

Exploit the utilization of nuclear energy resources for domestic and industrial use; and

Develop an integrated petrochemical industry to respond to the oil and gas industry

The supply of energy in a sustainable and efficient manner will require technological solutions and accessibility to energy sources such as renewables which will reduce carbon emissions.

These Technological solutions should further support **a higher efficiency** in energy usage that contributes to economic gains in industry, increase urban and rural usage, and at the same time reduce the overload that have been experienced in the country.

Research and innovation in renewable energies will **promote technological innovations** for production, distribution, usage and storage of alternative energies which includes sources from wind, solar and biomass energy that should be well adapted to meet challenges identified in the rural electrification master plan.

In order **to achieve security of supply, economic efficiency and sustainability**, the energy policies of Namibia should be able to address the affect caused by the demand and supply of energy

including a number of cross-cutting issues that require a strong support from Research and Innovation.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Similarly, Namibia's challenge is not unique to the rest of the world in the growing global energy crisis and demand over the coming decades. Namibia as a middle income country, needs to have diversified strategies in addressing the energy security supply and demand by applying principles directed by research and innovation.

Director of Ceremonies

Ladies and gentlemen

As we join the rest of the globe to commemorate World Metrology Day, we should be reminded that it is only through Research and Innovation Development (R&D) which leads to the generating new knowledge and information needed to make informed decisions, much of which is based on measurements.

For, the results of these measurements to be useful we must have confidence in the instruments and the processes used in generating this knowledge and information. To ensure this confidence is achieved , these instruments must comply with performance requirements laid down in internationally recognized written standards. These Standards should however prescribe for **accuracy, precision and equivalence** of measurements across the borders and the world at large. You will agree with me that a world without accurate measurement is a world where science, technology, trade and society cannot communicate and where error and uncertainty are the order of the day.

Therefore, the NCRST, is proud to participate in this commemoration as this event fits with the promotion of its cause

of ensuring that, as a prerequisite for R&D funding under the NRSTIP, shall demand that the measurements undertaken by R&D projects are **traceable and comparable to international standards.**

Finally, these measuring instruments on these projects must **be calibrated and verified as accurate** by a Calibration or Verification Laboratory such the NSI Metrology Lab which is signatory to the International Committee for Weights and Measures. The NCRST reaffirms its future collaboration NSI in driving Research, Science, Technology and Innovation agenda to higher frontiers.

Thank you.