



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 the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA); and opening of the National workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation data collection and indicators

12 August 2014

Polytechnic Hotel School

Dr John Steytler, the Statistician General, NSA;

NEPAD facilitators: Prof Luke Mumba; Dr. Neo Molotja; Dr. Moses Sithole and Mr. Lukovi Seke;

Participants in this national workshop;

Distinguished Guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a singular honour and pleasure to welcome you at this occasion of the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), as well as the opening of the National workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation data collection and indicators.

What we are witnessing today is a beginning of an existing journey for Namibia. The signing of the memorandum of Agreement between the NCRST and NSA 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.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Research and development plays a vital role in every field of human activity. For example, as consumers of goods and services, we often

use items that have made our lives easier. The importance of Research and Development is fully acknowledged in the NDP 4. However, despite this, currently there is a severe lack of data to sufficiently understand the RSTI landscape in Namibia and its meaningful contribution to national development.

For us to understand where we are as a country, which will also help us to formulate appropriate targets and initiatives, it is important to establish appropriate and robust systems for data collection, analysis as well as monitoring and evaluation in research, development and innovation. This would assist in ensuring that resources for research, development and innovation are suitably focused and aligned with national development priorities.

We are proud to partner with the Namibia Statistics Agency. This partnership would facilitate the establishment of a national RSTI information management system, which will serve as a source and repository of information that is relevant to science, technology and innovation related matters. It would also foster the application of the data to understand the state of the National Innovation System in order to support the development of evidence-based policy as well as constructive feedback to all stakeholders in research, science, technology and innovation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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, in addition to the signing of the MOU between NSA and NCRST, the NCRST and the New Economic Partnership for African Development - African Science, Technology and Innovation Initiative (NEPAD/ASTII) have also co-organised the training workshop entitled *"Namibia's Vision 2030 "R&D and Innovation indicators production towards the measurement of 2% Gross Expenditure on R&D / as a percentage of GDP (GERD)"*

The aim of this three-day national training workshop is to impart skills among participants on conducting R&D and Innovation surveys. It is expected at the end of this workshop that participants would have gained expertise in the production of core Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators, which would be important in the process leading to the publication of the national reports on STI statistics/indicators on a regular basis.

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.

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, views this initiative as significant for Namibia, as we embark on the process of strengthening our National System of Innovation through the development and implementation of policies and programmes that address our developmental challenges.

With us here today, we have resource persons and facilitators from both the NEPAD Agency STI hub and from the Centre of STI Indicators at the South African Human Sciences Research Council (CesTII/HSRC).

I would like to encourage the workshop participants to actively engage with these eminent facilitators in order to immensely benefit from the workshop for the next few days. On that note, I wish to conclude and to thank you again for your presence here today.