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Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

Official Launch of the National Research Symposium 2015 ***"Research - Weaving the future and beyond"***

In his welcoming address, Dr. Eino Mvula, CEO of the National Commission of Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) stipulated that, *"Our 2015 Symposium, which takes place from the 23rd to 25th September at Hilton Windhoek is themed, "Research weaving the future and beyond" which resonates very well with the mantra of the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation for 2014/15 to 2016/17, which is the national research agenda contribution to the transformation of our economy into a knowledge based society. As a country, we have set ourselves ambitious targets which we must achieve for science, technology and innovation to contribute to the achievement of National Development Plan objectives. The hosting of this Symposium thus signifies our commitment to achieving those targets that we have set for ourselves as Nation."*

Speaking at the official launch event, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Hon Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi confirmed that, *"The proposed areas of research cut across 15 thematic areas: health; agriculture and fisheries; water; energy; geology and mining; indigenous knowledge; social sciences and humanities, logistics; environment and tourism; as well as the areas addressing enabling technologies which are manufacturing technologies, information and communication technology; biotechnology and space science."*

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Est. by Section 4 of the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (23 of 2004)

Prior to the symposium, on the 21st and 22nd September, the NCRST and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa hosted a workshop for Namibia-South African researchers who are recipients of the research grants under the Namibia-South Africa bilateral agreement. The Government of Namibia greatly values regional and international collaboration in research which confirms the Minister's ideals that, *"True to this principle, we are party, at regional level, to the SADC Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation, which seeks to foster cooperation among Member States which promote the development, transfer and mastery of Science Technology and Innovation."*

In his inaugural speech, His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob had the following to say *"As we go forward, we will seek to be transactional in maintaining and strengthening the governance architecture, but we will also be transformational as we prepare the citizens for the new economy that requires the development of new parameters in education, innovation, and enterprise."* This signifies Government's commitment to establishing and strengthening a national system that promotes, develops, coordinates and informs research science, technology and innovation towards a knowledge-based society. *This calls for robust research and development programmes coupled with dissemination platforms starting at the grass root levels."*

Ends:

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