



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Keynote Address

by

Hon Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi

Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation

The Launch of the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) census (2013/14 fiscal year) and the Innovation Census (2012/13 and 2013/14 fiscal years).

Nampower Convention Centre, Windhoek

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Director of Ceremonies;

Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the national Planning Commission;

Prof Andre du Pisani, Chairperson of the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology;

Commissioners of National Commission on Research, Science and Technology;

Dr. Eino Mvula, CEO of the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology;

Representatives from Government Ministries and SOEs,

Representatives from the Private Sector,

Representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is with great pride and honour that I welcome you to the official launch of the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) census (2013/14 fiscal year) and the Innovation Census (2012/13 and 2013/14 fiscal years).

As many of you are aware, there is increasing recognition worldwide that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are key to economic growth and sustainable development. Indeed, any successful economy, particularly in today's quest for knowledge-based economies; Science, Technology, and Innovation are the basic prerequisites. As a country, we take Science, Technology and Innovation seriously because we believe

they are strategic for national development, and in particular for the attainment of our national development aspirations as spelled out in Vision 2030 and NDP4. It is on this premise that His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia established the new Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation in order to strengthen the line Ministry to drive innovation.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation is pleased to note progress made in the establishment and strengthening of our national system of innovation since the operationalization of National Commission on Research, Science and Technology in 2013. A programme level intervention has been developed in the form of the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) for 2014/15 to 2016/17, in terms of Section 18 of Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act 23 of 2004) with the aim of providing a comprehensive framework for actualizing Namibia's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) development aspirations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The realisation of objectives set out in NDP4 and in the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation cannot be achieved by government alone - the private sectors and non-governmental organisations also have a pivotal role to play. It is only through our collective efforts that we will be able to upturn the pace of adoption of Science, Technology and Innovation to underpin socio-economic development in our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to emphasise that Science, Technology and Innovation can only yield inclusive and sustainable development, if the development agendas are people-centred and that enabling environments are created to harness Science, Technology and Innovation for national development and poverty alleviation. This implies that we have to develop, implement and monitor national and regional Science, Technology and Innovation policies and programmes that promote knowledge production, dissemination and utilization, as well as the development and appropriation of technologies that spur innovation. This would require us not only to focus on large production facilities, but also at grassroots level, involving small and medium enterprises as part of a broader development agenda. Special attention must be given to human capital development and the promotion of a broader public participation in decision making in Science, Technology and Innovation related issues, in particular promoting the participation of vulnerable groups such as women, the youth and the disabled.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order for us to assess whether our efforts are yielding desired outcomes, we need to establish systems that allow for reliable collection of Science, Technology and Innovation indicators that would eventually inform policy and the necessary strategic interventions. I am pleased to inform you that the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) in collaboration with the Namibia Statistic Agency and the University of Namibia have joined hands to conduct a National Research and Development (R&D) Census, as well as a National

Innovation Census during the course of this year to establish core Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators. This process would eventually lead to the publication on a regular basis of the National reports on Science, Technology and Innovation statistics/indicators. Science, Technology and Innovation core indicators handle components such as active human capital involvement in Research & Development (R&D), time dedicated to Research and Development activities, and the budget or investment for scientific research activities and the innovation component to effectively inform Science, Technology and Innovation development in the country. We are expecting that the planned Research and Development, and Innovation Census will produce Science, Technology and Innovation indicators, necessary to inform policy makers of what policies and interventions need to be put into place in order to develop and grow our economy, indicate how much effort have or are being made in Research and Development, both in human and capital resources, inform and encourage organizations to improve their Research and Development management.

This effort is also in line with the initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) which develops Science Technology and Innovation indicators for African countries launched in 2007. The CPA was adopted in 2005 by the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) as the framework for Science, Technology and Innovation to respond to the socio-economic challenges facing the continent. Namibia joined this initiative in 2008.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to underscore that this would be Namibia's first National Census on Research and Development, and Innovation. I would like to use this opportunity to call upon all stakeholders from the private sector enterprises, government departments, government-owned trading entities, and universities to cooperate with the enumerators and provide the information required for this exercise. The effort to transform our economy from a resources-based economy to a knowledge-based economy as envisaged in our vision 2030 goals, depends upon the production and dissemination of quality and reliable Science, Technology and Innovation indicators. As mentioned already, these Science, Technology and Innovation indicators will be an indispensable tool for evidence-based policy formulation that will ensure effective alignment and reinforcement of Science, Technology and Innovation activities, through conducive policies and regulatory frameworks for the development of our economy and society at large.

I am informed that this project has received financial support from the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development - African Science, Technology and Innovation Initiative (NEPAD/ASTII). I am also informed that the NCRST and NEPAD/ASTII, Centre of STI Indicators at the South African Human Sciences Research Council (CesTII/HSRC) have conducted two training workshops for enumerators and stakeholders on measuring and conducting the Science, Technology and Innovation indicators using the Research and Development, and Innovation instruments. I would like to thank these partners for their

support. We believe this would ensure Science, Technology and Innovation indicators for Namibia are established according to international and regional practices, thereby allow for possibilities of benchmarking studies, comparing Namibia's Science, Technology and Innovation policies and performance with those of other countries.

I look forward to the successful execution of this project by our three institutions, namely the NCRST, NSA and UNAM. You have indeed raised the standard for collaborative strategic partnership that seeks practical solutions to solve developmental challenges. .

Director of ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honour and privilege to declare the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) census (2013/14 fiscal year) and the Innovation Census (2012/13 and 2013/14 fiscal years), officially launched.