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Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

Hon Dr. Itah Kandjii- Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation Launches the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) Survey Report (2013/14 fiscal year)

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) officially launched the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) Survey Report, at the Windhoek Country Club.

The report that has been launched today marks an important milestone in our country's science, technology and innovation landscape and indeed in the history of our great Nation, as it presents the first ever comprehensive set of indicators based on the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) survey (2013/14 fiscal year).

The Research and Development (R&D) Survey Report is the product of creative and critical interaction across disciplines, institutions and ideas. Since its inception in May 2012, and empowered by Section 18 of the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act 23 of 2004), the NCRST has developed a Three-Year National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) for 2014/15 to 2016/17. The NPRSTI was the outcome of wide and deep deliberations with researchers, research institutions, Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organizations, government ministries and agencies. The NPRSTI has been designed to articulate with and support National Development Plans, notably NDP4 and Vision 2030.

"All efforts are 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. As a country, Namibia, we take Science, Technology and Innovation seriously because we believe they are strategic for national development, and for the attainment of our national development aspirations as spelled out in Vision 2030, NDPs and the Harambee Prosperity Plan", said Hon Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation.

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“The Research and Experimental Development (R&D) Survey (2013/2014) represents an important step towards strengthening our national system of Innovation. The policy relevance of this survey is clear, and it is conceivable, that if properly harnessed by our policy-makers, could meaningfully inform the national development agenda and facilitate knowledge production and dissemination in a wide range of policy domains”, said Dr John Shoopala, Chairperson of the NCRST during the official launch.

“For the first time, Namibia has now reliable data ready to be used in formulating evidence based policy, just in time as the country embarks on the process of formulation of the fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) planning and the next National Programme on RSTI”, said Dr Eino Mvula, Chief Executive Officer , NCRST.

The Hon Minister then declared the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) Survey Report (2013/14 fiscal year) officially launched.

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