



Welcoming Remarks

By

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National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)

At the Prize Giving Ceremony of the Biggest Brainer Quiz Competition

Regional Level 2015

Stand Hotel, Swakopmund

28 October 2015

Director of Ceremonies,

Ms Sanet Steenkamp, Permanent Secretary: Ministry of Education, Arts
and Culture

The Regional Coordinators

Staff members of NCRST, Ministry of Arts and Culture and NBC

Teachers, Parents and Learners

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening and a warm welcome to you all. The Biggest Brainer Quiz Competition Regional Level 2015 represents an important milestone in our country's science, technology and innovation landscape and indeed in the history of our great Nation.

The preparation for this important event started a while back when the NCRST formulated the concept of initiating the biggest Brainer Quiz Competition based on the fact that Science Quiz Competition could serve as a unique and exciting approach to motivating, inspiring, encouraging and rewarding learners in their quest for knowledge and providing them with the opportunity to showcase their scientific knowledge. When the idea was presented to me as the CEO of the NCRST by Ms Philander and her team, I immediately fell in love with it, because, I could relate to it. I immediately remember the Quiz Competition when I was a learner and I can ascertain

that it is through participation in the Quiz that my love for science and mathematics grew. I would like to congratulate the team that has been involved in this exercise. Colleagues, you all have done a great job and we are proud of you!!

I have followed the Biggest Brainer Quiz Competition, at the levels, School, Circuit, Region and the Current one Between Erongo and Karas Regions. This morning as I drove from Windhoek, I switched on our National Broadcaster, as I always do, and I was indeed excited that the Biggest Brainer Quiz Competition was being broadcasted live. I must say that I felt being one of the participants in the competition.

I followed, the Karas Region Team under the team leadership Daniele Jantjies, and the Erongo Region Team and the team leadership of Mark Jane as they took it all out answering the questions.

I can recall the questions such as:

1. Chemistry: What is the Molecular Formula for Phosphorus?
2. Physics: The dynamo convert what form of energy into what form of energy?
3. Mathematics: What is the perimeter of a circle called?
4. Biology: What organic substance requires a very small amount to regulate growth?
5. Technology: What is produced as a product of data processing?

Friends, I was also participating with you and trust that the organizers will also give me at least a bronze medal.

I would like to use this opportunity to assure you that the NCRST will continue to support and invest in initiatives of this nature particularly targeting our young people who would eventually become future researchers and innovators. I wish to congratulate the winners for their outstanding achievement and encourage more young people to take science and maths seriously. Maths and Science are skills that are needed in the country and need to be honed.

I am confident that the Biggest Brainer Quiz Competition will grow from strength to strength and that it will continue to be one of our efforts of creating interest and passion for science and technology among our young people to ignite a long-lasting passion in science which could inspire many more to ask “why” and “how”, to embark on a journey of learning and discovering. With these few words I would like to welcome you all heartedly to this very important workshop.

I thank you.