



Welcoming Remarks

By

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Chief Executive Officer

National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)

At 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

03 September 2015

Director of Ceremonies,

Hon Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation

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;

Today, we are about to witness another important milestone in our country's science, technology and innovation landscape and indeed in the history of our great Nation, which is 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). This will be the first ever National Census on Research and Development, and on Innovation that will be conducted Namibia.

As a specialised Agency of government, responsible for promoting, coordinating and developing research, science, technology and innovation in Namibia, we are also mandated in terms of section 18 of the Research, Science and Technology Act of 2004, to coordinate the development of a national programme for research, science and technology. This we have done last year through wide stakeholder consultation process, and the three year NPRSTI has been endorsed by Cabinet and Parliament and subsequently launched in March 2015, becoming the first National Research Agenda for Namibia.

During the development of the National Programme for Research, Science Technology and Innovation, effort was made to obtain information on the Research, Development and Innovation landscape in Namibia in terms of input and output data. This was necessary to understand where we are as a country, in order for us to formulate appropriate targets and initiatives. Unfortunately it was difficult for us to find quality data on R&D and innovation, and we are informed that the same challenge was experience during NDP4 formulation phase.

It is against this background that the establishment of STI indicator, was made a key priority both in the NCRST Strategic Plan (2014/15 to 2018/19) as well as the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (2014/15 to 206/17).

Ladies and gentlemen, shortly we are going to find out more why the two Census that are being launched today are important and how data (ST&I) indicators can help in understanding the size and shape of the Namibia R&D landscape and their use in system-level planning, monitoring and evaluation.

A project of this magnitude require close cooperation between the various stakeholders because of the resource constraints we are facing, not only on the financial side, but also on the human resource side. We are proud to work closely with the NSA in line with the a memorandum of understanding which lays the foundation for collaborative and strategic partnership between our two institutions signed last year, as well as UNAM also in line with the agreement which was signed a month ago. We are confident that this team, will be able to pull all this smoothly and produce the final; deliverable well before the commencement of the 5th National Development Plan (NDP5) planning phase as well as that of the next National Programme on RSTI.

With these few words I would like to welcome you all heartedly to this very important occasion of the launch of the two Census of the Research and Experimental Development (R&D) census (2013/14 fiscal year) and the Innovation Census (2012/13 and 2013/14 fiscal years).

I thank you.