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Attention: The News Editor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCRST and NUST Streamlines Research and Innovation Funding.

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) has today signed a Master Agreement on Grant Management with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). The Agreement will streamline the process of disbursing funds to researchers and innovators based at NUST, it also gives assurance that the grants will be managed in accordance with the institution's existing financial management policies, and also the timely reporting of the project execution as part of their monitoring and evaluation process.

This Master Framework Agreement recognizes the importance and complimentary roles that the two institutions can play in developing science, technology and innovation in Namibia. The Master Agreement is a critical tool in streamlining research grant management, as the NCRST and NUST both play different, but equally important, roles in the functional innovation system, particularly at policy level (for example setting the National Research Agenda, Monitor and Evaluating the implementation); Institutional and Programme Innovation Support Level (in the form of Funding Agencies); as Incubator Centers; and at Innovation Capacity Level - where actual Research & Development and innovation takes place.

"I would like to thank Prof Tjivikua and his team for the commitment they have shown which led to the finalization of the agreement, which is a testimony of the importance of the development of R&D at NUST, thus transforming NUST from the current status of a

predominantly teaching institution, to a research intensive University. These collaborative efforts and many others initiated by all stakeholders, will undoubtedly contribute to making innovation a key driver for the achievements of the objectives and goals of the Harambee Prosperity Plan”, said Dr Eino Mvula, CEO of the NCRST.

Since its inception in 2013, the Research, Science and Technology (RST) Fund of the NCRST, has received and assessed over 397 applications for funding. Applications were received based on advertised Calls inviting Research and Innovation proposals. To date, 147 applications worth a funding value of over N\$ 27 million has been assessed and were approved. We have a specific focus on Capacity Building and supporting young people, hence the Fund has invested in 30 PhD students; 58 Master’s students and 32 Youth Innovators. The R&D Projects at NUST as percentage of total projects funded by the Commission (excluding postgraduate student funding and youth innovators) currently stands at 32%.

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