



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

Keynote Address

by

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Permanent Secretary: Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

At the Prize Giving Ceremony of the Biggest Brainer Quiz Competition  
National Level 2015

Stand Hotel, Swakopmund

28 October 2015

Director of Ceremonies;

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

Ms Angelique Philander, Manager: Human and Institutional Development, and Science and Technology Promotion at NCRST,

Representatives from Government Ministries, SOEs and Private Sector

NCRST Staff Members

Parents, Teachers and Learners

Distinguished Guests;

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my pleasure to join you this evening at the Prize Giving Ceremony of the Biggest Brainer Quiz Competition National Level 2015.

The Biggest Brainer Quiz Competition National Level 2015, is the first of this initiative that is organized and coordinated by the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology. This initiative is in recognition of Science Quiz Competition as a unique and exciting approach to motivate, inspire, encourage and reward learners in their quest for knowledge and providing them with the opportunity to showcase their scientific knowledge.

A Science Quiz Competition provides innumerable benefits to learners, which encourage their educational and even social development. Participation in a science quiz competition stimulates a learner's interest in science and technology while simultaneously promoting the

development of the skills such as communication, strategic thinking, team work, and lights the fire for knowledge. A learner's decision about study and career paths are primarily based upon interest in a particular field and on his/her perception of job prospects in that field. Positive contacts with science and technology at an early age can have a long-lasting impact.

I must say that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture fully support this noble initiative as it resonates well with our efforts of creating interest and passion for science and technology amongst our young people, through initiatives that ignites 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 this Quiz Competition, we are confident that we have managed to achieve two key important results namely:

- Instilled in learners the values of knowledge, wisdom and compassion and make them smart citizens; and
- Generated scientific minded citizens

I am informed that the National Level Competition is Stage III and that the participants at this Stage have previously successfully competed at School Level (Stage I) and at Circuit Level (Stage II).

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me use this opportunity to congratulate today's Prize Winners for the outstanding performances. We salute and applaud you all for this achievement! I look forward to your participation in THE

BIGGEST BRAINER SCIENCE Quiz Competition 2016. I would like to call on all Winners to continue placing your energy on this path of hard work and success. You are moving in the right direction in becoming leaders in your own fields and your success will continue to inspire others to mimic your great achievements. I would also like to encourage all other learners including those not receiving the award this evening, that you too can achieve this level of greatness. You too have the potential to receive the prizes. What is important is to take full ownership of your performance in accepting the fact that we are masters of our destiny and the future is in our own hands.

Finally, let me thank the NCRST for organising this event. Science, technology and innovation development is a long-term undertaking, which no Ministry or Agency can tackle alone. As citizens of Namibia, we hold equal responsibility for the growth of this nation to empower our youth with science and technology at all levels of education, as it plays a pivotal role in shaping their lives and careers which in turn will benefit our nation. The future of our nation is in their hands, and they can elevate our nation to more advanced levels than what it is today. Let us join hands in making the learning of science and technology fun! I wish you a pleasant evening.

I thank you.