



Statement

By

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The Chief Executive Officer

of the

National Commission on Research, Science and Technology

(NCRST)

At the Launch of the Road Show for the National, Science,
Technology and Innovation Festival

27 January 2015

Members of the Media;
Colleagues from the NCRST;
Distinguished invited guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my singular honour and pleasure to welcome you at this occasion of the launch of the National, Science, Technology and Innovation Festival and road show.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Education, through the then Directorate of Research, Science and Technology has over the past 9 years successfully organized and facilitated the National Science, Technology and Innovation Week (NAMSCI), with the aim of creating a awareness and interest in science, technology and innovation amongst all beneficiaries; to showcase and encourage innovation and creativity; and to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics, science and technology in our schools. For example, during the 2013 National Science, Technology and Innovation Week (NAMSCI), there were over 3 000 participants mainly from the Khomas region, and the feedback from all

participants, including teachers, learners, parents and the public has been very positive.

It is for this reason that the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) as an agency mandated with the promotion, co-ordination, monitoring and supervision of all research, science and technology activities in Namibia, has decided to further this initiative and take it to an even bigger scale, and it will be called the *National Science, Technology and Innovation Festival*. The festival will take place from 29 June to 3 July 2015 at the Windhoek Country Club Resort.

We expect the number of participants to increase by fivefold. In addition to Schools in Windhoek and from other regions we are also targeting the parents and general public at the festival. The festival will discuss and showcase the importance of science, technology and innovation to national development with emphasis on giving audiences an amazing experience through a programme of STI inspiring events, workshops, demonstrations, public talks and exhibitions. The STI Festival will bring together the scientific and innovation community to educate and excite the next generation about STI.

There are a number of exciting activities that are planned for the festival, these includes:

1. **RSTI Symposium** - Talks with panel discussion on topics of national Priority, such as Health, Agriculture, and Energy etc.
2. **Scientific Shows** - film and live science experiments
3. **Interactive Demonstrations** - Interactive science exhibits, use of scientific instruments i.e microscopes and telescopes.
4. **Exhibitions** - an Exhibition hall for Institutions/Companies that want to exhibit scientific equipment/products, Higher Education Institutions that want to exhibit their courses and bursary opportunities
5. **Competitions** - where teams challenge each other to complete in various scientific challenges
6. **Science, Technology, Innovation and Engineering Awards** - Professionals in the field will be awarded for outstanding achievements and contributions in research, science, technology and engineering development and promotion.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The NCRST will also embark on a roadshow to all fourteen regions over the next five months starting in February, to promote the festival in order to ensure that all regions are represented.

It is important to underscore that this festival is not organized by the NCRST alone. The NCRST values collaboration and has thus established an organizing committee consisting of stakeholders from the private sector, SOEs, higher education institutions as well as key Government Ministries. We believe this will assist in harnessing the efforts of all stakeholders, supporting the creation of partnership, sharing the available resources, both human and infrastructure, together with the financial resources towards this novel initiative. We are proud to partner with our stakeholders in the promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation.

I therefore declare the Science, Technology and Innovation Festival and the Road Show officially launched. I wish you a productive, engaging and enjoyable time at the roadshow and all the very best in the weeks ahead.