



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

Keynote Address

by

Hon Dr. David Namwandi,

Minister of Education

At the Launch of the National Programme on Research, Science,  
Technology and Innovation for 2014/15 to 2016/17

Hilton Hotel, Windhoek

17 March 2015

Director of Ceremonies,

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,

NCRST Staff Members

Representatives from Government Ministries and SOEs,

Representatives from the Private Sector,

Representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations,

Fellow Researchers and Innovators,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am deeply honoured to be here at this very prestigious event, the launch of the National Programme on Research Science, Technology and Innovation for 2014/15 to 2016/17.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has increasingly recognized that research, science, technology and innovation will be a key component of the country's socio-economic development and to strive Namibia towards a knowledge base economy. For this reason, Namibia adopted the national policy on Research, Science and Technology as far back as

1999 and the enacted the Research Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act No. 23 of 2004).

In accordance with section 18 subsection 3 of the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act 23 of 2004), the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), once in every three years, or at such other intervals as the Minister may determine, must prepare a national programme for research, science and technology for the following three years, or such other period as the Minister may determine.

I am pleased to announce here today that, the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia has approved the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) on the 24 February 2015. This programme was subsequently tabled in Parliament on 10 March 2015, thus ensuring compliance with the provision of the enabling legislation namely the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act 23 of 2004),.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) was developed within the broader context of V2030's goal for Namibia to become "a prosperous and industrialised Namibia, developed by her human resources, enjoying peace, harmony and political stability and is based on a shared vision of setting the national direction on STI and its application for benefit of our society. The principles underpinning this National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) while recognizing that research and development (R&D) is the key to scientific and technological

progress, would enable Namibia to use research, science and technology as a tool to help solve our society's deep and pressing socioeconomic challenges.

The Ministry of Education takes this opportunity to acknowledge the important role played by stakeholders in developing the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) and I must state that, the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) was developed in consultation with various stakeholders including Government Ministries, the private sector, Civil society, non-governmental organisation (NGOs), research institutions, Universities and development partners.

We understand that the successful implementation of the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) requires total commitment and involvement of all stakeholders in realizing the goal of a knowledge society, built on excellence in science, technology and innovation. For its part, the Ministry remains committed to provide funding for the implementation of the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) through the NCRST budget as well as under specific sectoral budgeting processes. However, the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) Implementation would also require funding from the Private Sector, and Regional and International resource partners to contribute to the development of research, science, technology and innovation in Namibia.

The National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) identifies Namibia's priority areas for investment in research, science, technology and innovation and presents an implementation programme for the remainder of the fourth National Development Plan (NDP4). The Programme responds to research priority areas which address and contribute to solving the primary social and economic challenges of Namibia. The Ministry emphasises the need for all Namibians to support the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation and enthusiastically assist in its implementation.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is important to recognise that Namibia also faces numerous challenges, which remain to be overcome head on to allow for Research, Science, Technology and Innovation advancement. These challenges include low investment in Research and Development. The current investments in research and development remain way below the NDP4 target, Research, Science, Technology and Innovation activities are fragmented and are not properly aligned to national priorities and thus has led to poor coordination and allocation of resources. At present, Namibia does not have a centralized information system on STI related activities such as on: Science, Technology and Innovation policy instruments; Research and Development (R&D) and innovation indicators: inventory of facilities, laboratories and instruments for research; information about the existing R&D projects performed at the public, private and non-profit sectors. Addressing these challenges requires total coordination and corporation

between various stakeholders with necessary ongoing investments into all components of the innovation system.

In addressing these challenges, this first National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI) focuses on increasing science and technology financing; building research capacities and technical skills; strengthening research and development infrastructure; creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment; promoting public understanding of science and technology as well as establishing and strengthening national, regional and international cooperation between stakeholders in RSTI.

Director of ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honour and Privilege to officially launch the three year National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17.

I thank you!