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Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

NCRST Awards Research Grants to Polytechnic of Namibia

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) today awarded grants to researchers at the Polytechnic of Namibia under the Namibia/South Africa Joint Bilateral Collaboration Research Programme.

NCRST, as the competent authority responsible for coordination and development of research, science, technology and innovation in Namibia has given researchers from the Polytechnic of Namibia grants for seven research projects to the value of over N\$ 1.3 million, running over the period of two years (2013/14 and 2014/15).

The grants were awarded to successful Namibian researchers and scientists in partnership with South African researchers from institutions of higher learning - who submitted research project proposals to the NCRST for funding under the Namibia/South Africa Bilateral Collaboration Research Programme - following a call for proposals.

"A total of 59 applications were received for this call, all of which were subject to a review process to ensure that they had scientific validity, were of good quality and are authentic and innovative. 30 projects were then selected for funding of which seven researchers are from the Polytechnic of Namibia." Said Mrs Alushe Nditya, Manager: Resource Mobilisation and Grant Management at the NCRST.

"I would like to thank NCRST for availing the research grants to the Polytechnic, you are playing a critical role in fostering a stronger culture of research and innovation in our country." Said Prof Tjama Tjivikua, Rector: Polytechnic of Namibia.

The purpose of the research calls was to provide opportunities for joint, collaborative research between researchers in the two countries, thereby establishing the foundation for building a critical mass of researchers and scientific capacity for both countries.

Grants run for a period of two years, with the next call for research proposals expected to take place in 2015. After the two year funding period, researchers are expected to provide a report on their findings, detailing the outcomes of the research. Significant results are expected to trigger further ongoing research or an examination therefore, which in turn is expected to drive the transition of the research results into innovative, technological products and or add value and quality to services.

Research proposals from the following areas or disciplines are considered for funding:

- Biosciences (with focus on food, agriculture and health technologies)
- Space Science (with emphasis on astronomy and earth observation)
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Mathematical sciences
- Mineral Resources (with focus value addition)
- Laser Sciences
- Energy (with emphasis on renewable energy and efficiency)

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