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Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

Namibia and South Africa sign a joint statement of cooperation in Astronomy and Space Science

The Republic of Namibia and the Republic of South Africa signed a joint statement confirming their countries' commitment to cooperation in the area of Astronomy and Space Science, yesterday during the official visit of South African Minister of Science and Technology, Hon. Naledi Pandor.

Hon. Dr David Namwandi, Minister of Education and Hon. Pandor, signed as Ministers responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation in their respective countries, confirming their mutual cooperation that already exists within the Framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement.

South Africa reaffirmed its political, scientific and technological support for Namibia's bid to host the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA), a global project that has attracted more than 1 000 scientists from 27 countries. Namibia is competing against potential sites in Argentina and Chile, and hopes to host the southern hemisphere portion of the CTA near the remote railway town of Aus in the south, and would attract about two-thirds of the CTA budget as it will be the larger site.

Both countries committed themselves to enhancing the human capacity for developing a global competitive scientific and technological community in support of Astronomy, Space Science in Southern Africa, as well as to advancing public outreach, promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for the stimulation of innovation.

"Namibia is committed to the advancement of Science and Technology as driver of national development. As we march towards becoming a knowledge-based, industrialized nation we recognize the need to invest in Science and Research infrastructure to support innovation and technology development. I would like to thank the Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa, Hon. Naledi Pandor for the overwhelming support that her government has given Namibia during the CTA bid process", said Hon. Dr David Namwandi.

Speaking at the same event, Hon. Naledi Pandor, South African Minister of Science and Technology encouraged Namibia to “stay on the course of investing in Astronomy, and the drive to host the CTA. I congratulate you on setting up the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, this is indeed a vital entity and a milestone in promoting Research, Science, Technology and Innovation in Namibia. We are certain that our combined effort will strengthen our partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation through the opportunity presented by the CTA.”

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