

## INCEIT takes root after official inauguration



**Hon Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**  
External Affairs Minister from India

The India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (INCEIT) delved its roots deeper into NUST soil after the completion of its first phase.

The Centre was established in 2019 as a product of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 16 June 2016 between the Governments of Namibia and India. The late President of India, Hon Pranab Mukharjee, initiated the project by visiting Namibia to establish a Centre of Excellence in Information

Technology (CEIT) in Namibia. "Information Communication Technology (ICT) is the backbone of the industry and dynamic in nature. The challenges facing it such as efficient service solutions, innovative start-ups and underdeveloped IT infrastructure, require national and international

partnerships, collaborations and solidarity to be addressed," Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

The inauguration event was presided over by the Indian Minister of External Affairs, Hon Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who acknowledged the Centre's unique relic, the PARAM !ARUB, a High-Performance Computing (HPC) system that falls in line with NUST's 2021-2025 strategic imperatives' goal four of *driving human-centric digital transformation for Industry 4.0 and beyond*. PARAM means 'ultimate' in India's Hindi language, while !ARUB means 'cheetah' in Namibia's Khoekhoe language. Thus, it was coined as such, because of its unparalleled speed, just like the cheetah. "The HPC has seen the installation of numerous application software to ensure its optimum usage. This will contribute to Namibia positioning itself as an ICT powerhouse in Africa and beyond," Hon Dr Jaishankar said.

"NUST has endeavoured to maintain the highest standards of education through research, innovation and community engagement and has taken practical steps to keep up with the demanding and rapidly

changing technological environment of the present millennium," Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Hon Dr Kandjii-Murangi said. The various programmes offered by the Centre will also help develop innovative ideas that have the potential to create new products, businesses, and jobs.

The Centre currently offers three certificate programmes at level 7: a Certificate in Ethical Hacking and Information Security, a Certificate in Big Data Technologies, and a Certificate in Advanced Web Technologies. In addition, two skills development short-term programmes are also on offer: a Certificate in Python Programming at Beginners and Advanced Level. "During the second phase, to strengthen the UNESCO chair in Secure High Performance Computing in Higher Education and Research, INCEIT will develop three certificates and/or postgraduate diplomas in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Big Data in High-Performance Computing, and Network Security," NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, elaborated.

The second phase will also focus to increasing the capacity and support for admin and maintenance of the HPC, advanced IT training, research, and innovation.

### Finance Minister unpacks the National Budget allocated to human capital development in Namibia

On a cold winter's evening, the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Hon Ipumbu Shiimi, took to the podium in a lecture venue on the NUST campus to deliver a public lecture titled, "Assessing the National Budget's Allocative Efficiency for Human Capital Development. The Minister dissected the National Budget, sign-posting key trends, concerns and recommendations for basic and higher education.

Diversity of skills and efficiency were the leitmotif of his lecture, with a keen emphasis on understanding the country's needs. "If you continue to develop the same thing in your country, you will not grow. You need to diversify," he cautioned.

Joining the conversation, was Phaniel Kaapama, a Senior Lecturer from the University of Namibia (UNAM), who expressed that the nation's weak learning outcomes speaks to the quality of students who graduate. "These failed investments are irreplaceable," he continued, while adding that quality education is feasible, provided that problem-solving techniques start at grassroots level.

Digging deeper into the budget allocation, Hon Shiimi revealed that a total of N\$40.7

billion was allocated for human capital development. As he systematically unpacked the budget, he pointed out that N\$12.4 billion went to education, N\$20.6 billion to health, and N\$7.7 billion to the social safety net. "This shows stability, and that Namibia trails close to other high-middle-income countries in terms of health and education," he elaborated.

The Finance Minister further indicated that problems in the education system include overaged enrolment, weak learning outcomes, high repetition and early dropout rates, and inadequate services in remote rural areas. He suggested that management be improved, investment be channeled into teacher training, and re-allocation of resources be made to early childhood



**Hon Ipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Public Enterprise** engaging with members of the public after delivering his lecture.

development.

A key recommendation that emerged in the discussion was that universities need to ensure that their skills output is aligned with the nation's demands and that research should also be conducted to improve productivity in agriculture and green hydrogen, respectively. "To attain this, the Education Reform Strategy (ERS) was launched in 2022 to address current educational issues. The focus now lies with the implementation

process," Hon Shiimi said. Since education is deemed a Fundamental Constitutional Right, the ERS will serve as an engine to drive the development of individual levels, while addressing other crucial social challenges such as unemployment and poverty. Various senior members of the University community and students attended the public lecture, which lasted well over two hours, with the majority of engagements coming from the students.



**Ville Kairamo**  
Demola Global CEO

### Demola Global CEO lauds an inspiring week at NUST

And says Namibia has an "incredible" opportunity to build a sustainable knowledge society...

The energetic and youthful Ville Kairamo, CEO of the Finnish Innovation Giant, Demola Global, spent a week at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), working with students to tap into their creative and innovative potential.

Posting online on his LinkedIn profile towards the end of his trip, he wrote; "What an inspiring week in Namibia building our Demola Global hub with Namibia University of Science and Technology, NUST!"

He mentioned how Namibia has an incredible

opportunity for green transition and building a new sustainable knowledge society. He advised that it requires long-term, mutually beneficial, and transparent international cooperation, extensive investments, and a new entrepreneurial spirit.

"Dr Eroid Naomab's leadership at NUST is developing world-class capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship with global standards," he said.

Kairamo further shared that his aim is to enable the creation of Windhoek-based

unicorns and connect talent and business communities internationally to imagine radically different future states.

The work continues, and the first NUST students and faculty started their Demola participation in Mid-March this year.