

Aviation feasibility study takes-off

NUST at the centre of Aviation Development talks...



Minister of Works and Transport, Hon John Mutorwa

Dr Erold Naomab addresses various industry partners and guests from Finland.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology, in collaboration with its longstanding partner, Tampere University in Finland, are in serious talks to develop skills across the African Aviation value chain.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed more than two years ago articulated that a feasibility study be coordinated between the two parties to establish the AiRRhow Centre of Excellence for Civil Aviation for Africa in Keetmanshoop. "Civil aviation in Africa has unique challenges such as limited infrastructure, regulatory barriers, and safety concerns," Dr Erold Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor said. He further added that such a centre could prompt the design

and manufacturing of aircrafts, aircraft maintenance, airline operations, air traffic control, ground handling, airline marketing and sales, and regulation. This plan stands to boost the African aviation sector, which largely relies on tourism, by supporting economic growth, regional integration, and improved connectivity. The first in a series of planned feasibility workshops took place on Monday this week, to serve as a platform to map a way

forward on how the project can be rolled out effectively. Discussions revolved around resources needed and how the current skills gap can be addressed.

Minister of Works and Transport, Hon John Mutorwa graced the occasion, and phrased his remarks from the MoU document, saying "in order to promote public-private partnership cooperation and to foster sustainable and innovative Civil Aviation related training and education in Namibia." The MoU further states that the Parties undertake to cooperate in the areas of conducting a Feasibility Study on establishing a Centre of Excellence for Civil Aviation that will look

at institutional technical, academic and economic viability. Following the Feasibility Study, a Draft Business Plan of a Centre of Excellence for Training and Education of Civil Aviation in Namibia will be formulated to conduct a separate study of physical and digital learning environments, to promote job creation and to expand local/regional value addition within the Civil Aviation sector. Industry experts say the establishment of the centre in Namibia will not only propel the increase of training in a variety of aviation technologies but also drive several economic activities.

Six NUST students arrive in Denmark

Six NUST students left to Denmark as exchange students recently where they will be studying for five months in collaboration with the Aalborg University (AAU). Professor Heike Wanschiers-Theophilus of NUST and Professor Kasper Rodil of AAU made the student exchange possible through the two parties' long-standing collaboration that spans more than ten years.

The beneficiaries of the Erasmus Plus Programme are Jason Mendes, Lemuel Mayinoti, Isaac Makosa, Kaulyaalwa Peter, Selma Auala are from the Faculty of Computing and Informatics, majoring in Software Engineering, and Francineth Bauleth pursuing a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Media Technology. It is not common that students can utilise technological advancements to carry out their creative dreams. However, these aspiring creative technologists are

participating in the Medialogy programme offered at AAU that deals with projects that yield immersive digital experiences to broaden their horizons in the field of game development, virtual realities and artificial intelligence, amongst other emerging technologies.. The exchange students plan to make the most of their time while they are in Denmark and fully immerse themselves in the Danish culture while getting accustomed to the cold and humid weather.



From left to right: Kaulyaalwa Peter, Isaac Makosa, Selma Auala, Jason Mendes, Francineth Bauleth and Lemuel Mayinoti at the AAU Create building.