

NUST BRIEF

NUST celebrated 16 years of the Commercial Advancement Training Scheme

NUST recently hosted the 15th graduation ceremony of the Commercial Advancement Training Scheme [CATS]. The CATS initiative was developed in partnership with the Walvis Bay Corridor Group, Capacity Building International and the Institute for Management and Leadership Training.

The two-year programme is built on the German traineeship model in which individuals undergo four days of work-based training and two days of academic lectures a week. "This blend of theory and practice creates for a holistic learning environment that facilitates the application and transfer of knowledge and skills," NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Erol Naomab said at the event. Industry involvement is an essential aspect of the CATS programme, and a number of private sector firms are affiliated to the initiative as CATS Member Companies. "The CATS programme which was established in 2005, has to date produced 109 graduates. The

initiative facilitates the development of skills amongst young people from underprivileged communities," Secretary General of the Namibia Employer's Federation, Daan Strauss, explained.

Since its inception, the CATS programme has seen an enrolment of 257 individuals with 109 of these seeing it through to the end. This year, 20 students successfully graduated from the programme. "Your NUST qualification signifies to the world that you are ambitious, passionate and tenacious, and also that you are equipped with the requisite knowledge and skills to enter and make a success of your endeavours," Dr Naomab noted.



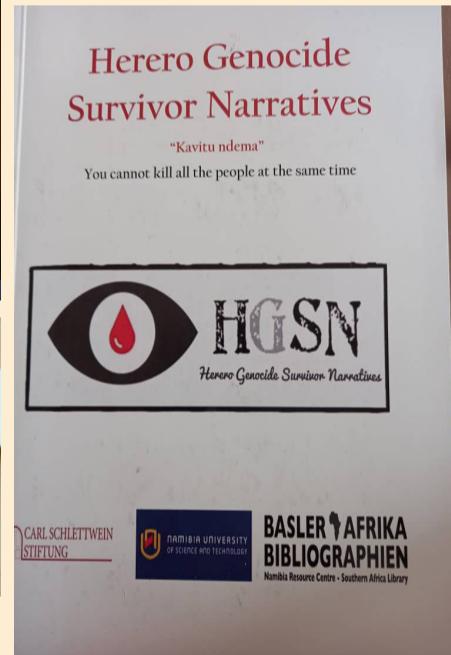
The Commercial Advancement Training Scheme graduates captured with NUST's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Erol Naomab.



Top Left: Sandra Tjiramanga

Bottom Left: Prof Sarala Krishnamurthy

NUST Faculty members launch Herero Genocide Survivor Narratives book



In a recently launched *Herero Genocide Survivor Narratives* book, compiled and edited by NUST's Prof Sarala Krishnamurthy and Sandra Tjiramanga from NUST's Faculty of Human Sciences, untold stories unfold in a collection of Herero voices about the genocide that took place between 1904-1908.

The book entails 24 interviews that were conducted over a three-year period with Herero elders, giving readers insight to multiple experiences and survival stories of the Hereros. "We have an amazing collection of Herero voices; people who are members of the surviving families. All the interviewees are grandchildren or relatives of people who managed to escape the genocide," Prof Krishnamurthy said. The narratives are awe-inspiring and powerful first-hand stories of survival recorded in their own language – a first to be seen in this part of the world explained Prof Krishnamurthy. "There are many Holocaust studies and interviews of the survivors, but we do not have any interviews of what is believed to be the first genocide in the 20th

century," she added. Prof Krishnamurthy's inspiration for her book stems from a book launch she attended in 2017 of 'The Scattering' by Lauri Kubuitsile, where she had used the Herero genocide to weave a love story.

"The author, however, claimed that she had no interest in the genocide and that it was only a background setting for her story. At that point, I decided that it was time the Herero tell their own stories," she elaborated.

Once approval is received from the donor agency that funded Prof Krishnamurthy's research and publication of the book, it will be made publicly available. This is due to a high level of public interest in the publication.

NUST and B360 pilot Virtual Internship Programme

The arrival of the global Coronavirus pandemic in late 2019 and early 2020 disrupted the annual internship programme, that involve the selection and placement of students from the Namibia University of Science and Technology [NUST] with Swiss-based organisations under the B360 Education Partnerships.

B360 and the Department of International Relations [DIR] at NUST, therefore, set about developing an initiative that would see students from the University undertake internships with Swiss-based organisations, while physically remaining in Namibia. The outcome was the B360 Virtual Internship Programme.

With the support of the Staub Kaiser Foundation, four NUST students were selected for a pilot project that took place over a three-month period from April to July 2021.

Kashe Mayavero, a third year Informatics student, Rochelle Cornelius, a third year Journalism and Media Technology student, and Elizabeth lita and Christine Scheepers, both third year Communication students, were chosen for the pilot project.

The four students were provided with office space on the NUST campus, while B360

provided each of them with a laptop and smartphone.

"It was exciting to be part of a brand-new initiative, and none of us really knew what to expect," said lita, while reflecting on the early days of the virtual internships. Scheepers added that the support provided by B360, the host companies and the DIR ensured that they were well prepared for the demands of working life, and the challenges of remote work.

B360 President, Sabina Balmer, initially expressed her uncertainty of the project at its early stages, but eventually celebrated its success. "It really took a lot of courage and hard work to get this initiative going, but we have successfully concluded this pilot project and hope that the Virtual Internship Programme will become a lasting feature of the partnership between B360 and NUST," Balmer said.



From left to right: Elizabeth lita, Rochelle Cornelius, Christine Scheepers and Kashe Mayavero on an excursion to Swakopmund during their B360 Virtual Internships.