



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

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**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND  
INNOVATION**

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**THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE SPRING GRADUATION  
CEREMONY OF THE NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY (NUST)**

**BY:**

**HON. DR. BECKY, R.K. NDJOZE-OJO, MP**

**DEPUTY MINISTER, HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING  
AND INNOVATION (MHETI)**

**ON:**

**FRIDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

**AT:  
09H00**

**AT:  
SAFARI COURT HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
WINDHOEK**

Director of Ceremonies

Prof. Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Vice-Chancellor of Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)

Adv. Esi Schimming-Chase, Chairperson of the Council of NUST

Esteemed NUST Council Members

Dr. Alfredo Tjiurimo Hengari, the Guest Speaker

Professors, Deans and Directors of NUST

Academic and Administrators' Staff of NUST here present

Dear Graduates

Dear Parents and Guardians

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Good morning!**

It gives me great pleasure to have been invited to this auspicious occasion of a Graduation Ceremony. This is an important day in the life of a hardworking student, who worked extremely hard; who persevered and with a heart filled with hope, patiently waited for this day of crowning. May I now pause to say: Congratulations!! to all the 700 Graduants. This day is simultaneously, the day of pride to the 1400 plus parents and guardians who stood by them all the way. Congratulations to you all.

I have watched with great interest the development of this institution, from the humble beginnings of the College of Out-of-School Training (COST) and the Technikon Divisions of the then Academy to the Polytechnic of Namibia (PON) and now the internationally-recognised Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). Success has not come easy for NUST because all these transitional phases came about as a result of hardwork. It has involved deliberate and focused efforts to develop relevant high-quality programmes that are benchmarked against international standards and good practice.

It is therefore, not surprising that, for example, the Architecture programme of NUST was granted unconditional validation by the South African Council of Architect Profession and the Commonwealth Association of Architects. Both local and international accreditation of academic programmes have been critical not only to enhancing the institutions' reputation, but also that our students received and shall continue to receive competitive education that adequately train them for the work place.

Furthermore, NUST has established an extensive network of international partners from which it leverages both intellectual and physical resources that are necessary for pursuing academic excellence and scholarship. Partnership and more partnership, particularly for resources mobilisation is the future of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and we at the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (MHETI) are encouraged by the credible efforts NUST had always made; makes, and shall continue to make. Keep up the good work!!

As encapsulated in our name: Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (MHETI), we are mandated to **educate**, **train** and **innovate**; and true to our name since our creation in 2015, we have embarked on doing just that.

MHETI, had embarked on its mission of accelerating the development of high level skills and competencies through equitable funding and access to quality higher education, training and innovation. Hence, our commitment to funding all our HEIs to the tune of 80% of their total Budget. The vision of MHETI is to ensure a highly skilled, innovative and competitive workforce. Hence, our resolve to **educate** and **train** the needed human resources as engine to propel us to **Vison 2030**. In line with the key national priorities as set out in the **National Development Plan 5 (NDP5)** namely: of Agriculture, Tourism, Logistics, Infrastructure and Environment, MHETI had developed initiatives and projects at the various public HEIs under her care to ensure the sector speaks to national priorities such that when we train and produce Graduates such as you, you find a place to work, especially, creating your own business to be of assistance to yourselves, your communities and your Country.

With particular reference to NUST. Firstly, we as MHETI legislated NUST from Polytechnic of Namibia (PON) through an Act of Parliament to ensure we have a Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST). Through Cabinet we instituted the NUST Council, under the able Chairpersonship of Adv. Esi Schimming-Chase and her diversified team of Council Members to assist her with putting a functioning NUST Council for smooth Governance of this dear Institution to us. We are proud of how NUST is currently running and making progress.

In recognition of the huge contribution NUST has been making, the Institution has received many accolades. A few recent examples, include the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences that has won first prize for Research and Development at Namibia's prestigious Sustainable Development Awards. Whilst the Department of Natural and Applied Sciences was awarded a first prize for research involving studying the cultivation and use of Moringa Tree for its water treatment, medicinal and nutritional properties. The awards were presented by the Environmental Investment Fund and Namibia's Sustainable Development Advisory Council. The Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning made the Institution proud by winning the prestigious Des Baker Award. We take note of these many achievements with pride.

I have deliberately spent some time on NUST achievements. Firstly, because on a day like this, it is fitting that I congratulate NUST: Prof. Tjama Tjivikua at its helm; committed professors, deans, directors and staff members as its engine that ensures NUST runs smoothly, and all students without whom there would not be universities. Thank you students for making this possible; and thank you NUST for the excellent work done here. We are all proud of you.

Secondly, as the Ministry responsible for training of Human Resources for the entire country, and as a line Ministry to NUST, we would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the tremendous efforts NUST makes within its niche, that of Science and Technology that enables us as a Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation to live up to our underlying mandate of **educating**, **training** and **innovating**. We, at MHETI sincerely commend NUST for the good work they do in this regard.

The Institution's theme for the year is "*Re-imagining University Engagement in the Knowledge Economy*." This is a strong emphasis on what changes need to occur such that the University can meet the demands and challenges of the future. The re-imagining of university engagement includes reassessing the various models such as the business models; the education models to inform, learning and teaching methods; recruitment strategies, stakeholder relationships, and further exploring various funding models; method and income generating ventures.

In my opinion, the futuristic, successful university is one that has concerted deliberate strategies to self-financing. NUST, as it were, kindly be innovative in this regard because that is where your future liberty lies. Rethinking of how the Institution does business has implications for the higher education as a whole, particularly when resources are meagre and requires us to do more with less. Hence, strong collaboration amongst the various elements of the higher education system is crucial in order to ensure sustainability. We, at MHETI note that NUST has strong collaboration as one of its primary goals in its strategic plan; and we all look forward to the actualisation of such goals and intents to culminate in the concrete results envisaged.

For instance, the Hon. Minister and I, and in fact the entire team at MHETI have great expectations that the NUST TVET Faculty shall soon become a reality to help us train TVET instructors at our various VTCs with Certificates and Diplomas first and thereafter Degrees in TVET which is our main focus at MHETI.

In conclusion, may I, on behalf of the Hon. Minister, Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Alfred Van Kent and the entire team at MHETI, once more congratulate you all for your great and excellent strides, as we all move together in unison towards, dissecting and digesting our NDP5; and pull together in one direction through **Harambee to Vision 2030.**

God Bless and Congratulations to us all.

I thank you for your kind attention.