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## **Media Release: NUST Awarded Leadership of €2 Million IGNITE Project To Boost Green Hydrogen Skills**

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) has been awarded leadership of the IGNITE Green Hydrogen Project, a multimillion-Euro initiative funded by the European Union (EU) to strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Namibia's emerging green hydrogen and Power-to-X sectors.

The grant, valued at €2 million (approximately N\$40.8 million), will be implemented over 24 months starting in October 2025. As the lead organisation, NUST will head a consortium comprising Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, Zhero Pty, NamWater Corporation Ltd, and the Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT).

The IGNITE Project will respond directly to Namibia's pressing skills gap in renewable energy by upskilling 300 unemployed TVET graduates, training 40 qualified trainers, and upgrading qualifications to ensure relevance to industry needs, thereby strengthening Namibia's position in the global green hydrogen value chain.

Speaking at a signing ceremony held at the NIMT campus in Arandis on Friday morning, H.E. Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships, described the grant as a step towards "shaping the workforce that will drive Namibia's green future".

"Together, the EU and Namibia are building something remarkable – a green hydrogen industry that can make your country a global leader in this modern, sustainable industry," he said.

Commissioner Síkela highlighted that, through its global initiatives, the EU has mobilised more than €1 billion in loans and grants, adding that these investments

will create tens of thousands of jobs by 2040. “But none of this is possible without skills. That is why this IGNITE Green Hydrogen Project is so important,” he added.

Prof Eroid Naomab, the NUST Vice-Chancellor, echoed his sentiments, noting that engineers and scientists cannot deliver the green hydrogen future alone. “We also need artisans and technicians to install, operate, and maintain renewable energy systems — and entrepreneurs to create local businesses and jobs across the hydrogen value chain,” he said.

“This is where the IGNITE Green Hydrogen Project plays a pivotal role. In partnership with NIMT, NamWater, Hyphen, Zhero, and the Keetmanshoop Vocational Training Centre, the NUST TVET Department will strengthen vocational training pathways and align them with industry needs. The project will train trainers, update curricula, and create progression routes from TVET to higher education, ensuring that young Namibians are equipped for meaningful work in this new sector.”

Prof Naomab further expressed NUST’s appreciation to the EU, lauding the organisation for “adding another important building block” to its collaboration with the University, which has lasted over 25 years.

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