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Media Release: NUST Retains Namibia's Top Position in THE Impact Rankings

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) has strengthened its standing in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, retaining its position as Namibia's leading university for impact while improving its overall global ranking. The THE rankings annually assess and rank universities worldwide.

The University moved from the 1501+ band in 2025 to the 1001-1500 band in 2026. NUST's improved performance is strongly linked to its identity as a university of science and technology. Its impact is not built only on academic outputs, but on the ability to apply knowledge to real problems.

For NUST, this achievement is more than a ranking outcome. It is external recognition of how the University's teaching, applied research, innovation, and partnerships are being translated into measurable value for society. The most significant growth was recorded in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (**SDG 4: Quality Education**), where NUST improved from the 601-800 band to the 301-400 band. The University's contribution to quality education is reflected in practical curricula, work-integrated learning, public lectures, regional reach, digital resources, and lifelong learning.

Community-Centred Innovation

NUST also improved in **SDG 1: No Poverty**, moving from the 401-600 band to the 301-400 band, supported by initiatives that widen access to higher education, support vulnerable students, promote entrepreneurship and deliver community-centred innovation. One of the clearest community impact examples is the NUST-SEED Living Lab near Groot Aub in the !Kharoxas community. Established in collaboration with the Technical University of Munich through the Sustainable Energy and Entrepreneurship Development Centre, the Living Lab has delivered tangible services and enterprise opportunities. The community has benefited from a 20kWp solar photovoltaic plant, a solar-powered borehole water pump with storage, a poultry house and egg incubator, marula seedlings, a bush-feed crushing machine, and a community garden.

In **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**, the University improved from the 1001-1500 band to the 801-1000 band, reinforcing the value of its collaborations with Government, industry, communities and international partners. Through the Regional Upscaling Platform for Vocational Excellence, hosted with Stellenbosch University under ACEWATER III, NUST is helping to shape a more coordinated approach to water-sector skills in Namibia. The initiative connects

academia, water utilities, renewable energy stakeholders, and industry partners around the Water-Energy-Food nexus, while positioning NUST as a national coordinator in efforts to strengthen vocational excellence.

Meanwhile, NUST also entered **SDG 5: Gender Equality** in the 401-600 band, creating further momentum around equity, inclusion, and opportunity.

These results confirm that the University's impact story is rooted in real work: research that informs policy, education that builds skills, innovation that supports communities and partnerships that turn ideas into practical solutions. As Namibia advances towards the sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) and Vision 2030, NUST's performance in the THE Impact Rankings demonstrates the role of institutions of higher learning in shaping a more inclusive, skilled and sustainable future.

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