

Wednesday, 05 August 2026

Media Release: NUST Unveils Namibia's First Genome Sequencing Platform

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) has reached a major scientific milestone with the acquisition of Namibia's first high-throughput genome sequencing platform, positioning the country to conduct advanced genomic research locally for the first time.

The Illumina NextSeq 2000 enables researchers to analyse DNA within Namibia, reducing reliance on overseas laboratories while strengthening national capacity in healthcare, research, agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and environmental science.

Genome sequencing involves reading an organism's complete genetic code, providing insights that support disease surveillance, precision medicine, agricultural innovation, and biodiversity research.

The platform has already delivered a landmark achievement, with NUST successfully sequencing the first Namibian human whole genomes entirely within the country. This breakthrough opens new opportunities for precision medicine, disease surveillance, and locally relevant genomic research.

Prof Lamech Mwapagha, Associate Professor of Medical Biochemistry at NUST, described the development as a defining moment for science in Namibia.

"We now have the capacity to conduct advanced genomic sequencing locally, enabling our researchers to generate high-quality data within the country while reducing dependence on international facilities," he said.

Beyond supporting research and postgraduate training, the platform is expected to strengthen Namibia's ability to respond to public health challenges, support agricultural innovation, and contribute valuable African genomic data to global research.

For more information on how this investment is transforming genomic research in Namibia, read the full article [here](#).

Issued by:

Department of Corporate Engagement and Internationalisation
communications@nust.na

Enquiries:

Ms Cindy van Wyk
Public Relations Officer

cvanwyk@nust.na