



17 June 2020

Dear Staff and Students

**RE: SPONSORSHIP REQUEST**

Central to our mission at NUST is to provide equal opportunities to all students in Namibia. However, it is a fact that students who grow up in poverty tend to have less access to higher education. This severely limits their chances of leaving poverty in their adult life. The first step assisting these young people succeed in life, is to open access to higher institutions like NUST.

As COVID-19 sweeps the world, our institution closed its doors and migrated to online learning, forcing both staff and students to turn to their personal computers and home internet access to finish their assignments. The abrupt pivot to fully remote work and at-home learning is testing even those with the latest equipment. But what about those without computers at home?

Although many disadvantaged students are fit to enter our institution, they are faced with a myriad of financial and other challenges. Half of our challenge as an institution, is assisting students from low-income backgrounds get into NUST, but the other half is helping them succeed to graduation, once admitted.

In response to the COVID-19, the student leadership are concerned that with the commencement of online learning, which is a good tool to embrace, NUST is currently not adequately equipped to ensure success in online learning, as our students are currently struggling with connectivity and devices. The inclusivity of the online initiative is therefore questioned as the most vulnerable and poor students are left behind. For these students, connectivity and a laptop could be the difference between passing and failing their courses. Many of these student's parents recently lost jobs because of the COVID pandemic, making it impossible for them to buy a laptop when they most needed one. With so many new difficulties stemming from the pandemic, a laptop is a pragmatic way to help students overcome a major challenge.

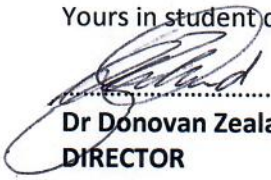
It is against this background that the NUST SRC embarked on an initiative to humbly request staff members and students to donate unused devices (laptops and tablets) to needy NUST students. These donations can be made through the Department: Students Services, who in conjunction with the SRC will be responsible for the redistribution of the devices.

The following persons could be contacted in this regard:

- 1. Secretary for Finance: Ms. Shante Mahalie**  
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- 2. Secretary for Information and Publicity: Ms. Pamoritha Keister**  
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- 3. Secretary for External Affairs and Liaison: Mr. Patrick David**  
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Thanking you in advance for your kind consideration.

Yours in student development.

  
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**Dr Donovan Zealand**  
**DIRECTOR**

