

## NUST launches Eenhana campus fundraising campaign

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) launched a fundraising campaign in support of the establishment of a satellite Campus at Eenhana in the Ohangwena Region.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila formally launched the fundraising campaign and praised the project for bringing tertiary education closer to the community in the Ohangwena Region.

"At the outset, I wish to commend NUST for continuing to expand its reach to the outer lying areas to many of our youth who are still without access to tertiary education institutions," said Kuugongelwa-Amadhila before announcing her donation of N\$10 000 towards the project.

The Ohangwena region has approximately 270 schools with a learner population of about 115 000. This translates to the Ohangwena region being one of the most densely populated regions in Namibia with limited access to higher education according to the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi.

"The NUST Eenhana Campus Project fulfils the Government's policy of taking higher education to the masses. For NUST, the envisaged Eenhana Campus is historic and very special in that it will be the first fully fledged NUST campus in another region of our country," she elaborated.

More the N\$2 million was raised for the establishment of the NUST Eenhana Campus during the launch event.

"This event signifies the progress we have made as a nation, in the development of our country and people since independence, especially in the area of education," said Former President, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, Patron of the NUST Eenhana Satellite Campus. The Former President also pledged an amount of N\$100 000 to support the

project.

In total, an amount of N\$1.2 billion is needed to setup the NUST Eenhana campus over a period of ten years.

Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, was also present at the launch, and he pledged an amount of N\$5000.00 towards the project. "We will overcome challenges when we work together as a team, because a people united, striving to achieve a common goal for all members of society will always emerge victorious," Dr Nujoma said.

Deputy Prime Minister, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and her family donated 120 academic books to the NUST Eenhana campus library, as well as an amount of N\$10 000.

NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, pledged N\$5000. He indicated that teaching and learning will commence at the Eenhana Campus in 2022.

"The Billy William Mwaningange Rural Development Centre (BWMRDC) until the finalisation of construction of the NUST campus at Eenhana," Dr Naomab explained. In the meantime, The BWMRDC will be utilised as the NUST Eenhana satellite campus until the finalisation of the construction on land donated by the Eenhana Town Council, measuring 21 hectares valued at more than N\$40 million.

Notable donors include NAMDIA (N\$500 000), Rani Group of Companies (N\$300 000), Rhino Group (N\$300 000), Usko Nghaamwa (N\$100 000), Jonas Haushuan Supermarket (N\$40 000), NAMPORT (N\$30 000), Hangala Group (N\$30 000), Twapewa Kadhikwa (N\$30 000), Steven Unoovene - Build It (N\$25 000), David Shimwino (N\$20 000), Mandume Kaulinge and Dr Margret Kaulinge (N\$20 000).



Front, left to right: Deputy Prime Minister, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah; Founding Father, HE Sam Nujoma; Prime Minister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila; former President and Patron of the NUST Eenhana campus project, HE Hifikepunye Pohamba; former First Lady, Penny Hambeko Pohamba. Back, left to right: Erickson Ndawanifwa, Chairperson of the Regional Council Management; Honourable Erastus Uutoni, Minister of Urban and Rural Development; Tatekulu George Nelulu; Chairperson of Oukwanyama Traditional Authority; Walde Ndevashiya, Governor of the Ohangwena region; Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor; Florette Nakusera, NUST Council Member; His Worship Omri-On Kavandje, Mayor of Eenhana; Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Education, Technology and Innovation; Prof Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly.



NUST Acting Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Dr Pilsano Masake speaking live on NBC during the event.



NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Activities, Dr Andrew Niikondo giving an overview of the NUST Eenhana fundraising campaign on Kati FM.



Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi



HE Hifikepunye Pohamba



Prof Peter Katjavivi



## Namibia's first-ever drive-through Graduation hosted at NUST

NUST again pushed back the boundaries of what is thought possible as the institution found an innovative way of allowing graduates to participate in its Spring 2021 Graduation Ceremony. This involved the organisation and hosting of the first-ever Drive-Through Graduation in Namibia.

The Institution introduced this creative way to include students in the Graduation Ceremony, because it could not host its traditional graduation event due to national COVID-19 guidelines. The official proceedings of the 2021 Spring Graduation were pre-recorded and livestreamed via the Institution's facebook page and YouTube Channel.

Following the conferment of qualifications, graduands participated in the Drive-Through component, which saw them able to exit their vehicles, walk down the red carpet, obtain their Graduation Scrolls and have an official graduation photograph taken. The rationale for the inclusion of the drive-through component in the 2021 Spring Graduation Ceremony is centered on the motivation to involve those graduating in what is undoubtedly a special and momentous occasion.

This ceremony was therefore the perfect opportunity for celebration and an expression of joy, for the graduating class and the university community at large, in the face of uncertainty brought on by the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Delivering the Keynote address at the event was First Lady of Namibia, Mrs Monica Geingos, who encouraged students who did not graduate this time around due to unforeseen circumstances to not give up.

"Please come back and finish your course. Perseverance is defined as persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success," she said.

Mrs Geingos further implored graduates to remain optimistic, especially in a COVID-19 stricken economic era where employment has become scarce. Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi shared the same sentiments since youth employment is a key indicator of a country's development. "It also determines how fast and sustainably an economy grows. It is for this reason that the Government of Namibia prioritises investments in the education sector as it is the driving force behind a country's success and has a direct impact on employment," Dr Kandjii-Murangi reiterated.

NUST graduates were over the moon with excitement at the first-ever drive-through Graduation Ceremony last week Friday.