



NUST and RFA Sign Multimillion-Dollar Funding Agreement



Prof Andrew Niikondo, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor (left) and Ali Ipinge, Chief Executive Officer of the Road Fund Administration signing the funding agreement.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Road Fund Administration (RFA) formalised an agreement earlier this week that will see the RFA invest over N\$2 million annually for the next five (5) years. The funding agreement aims to strengthen research, innovation, and capacity development within Namibia's road sector.

The signing of the five-year strategic agreement marks a significant milestone in aligning academic research with national priorities, particularly in addressing the evolving infrastructure challenges re-

lated to road funding, maintenance, and sustainability. The partnership will focus on:

- Development of alternative revenue streams, including distance-based road

user charges and road user charges for electric vehicles,

- Exploration of public-private partnership models to support infrastructure

- financing,
- Research into climate-resilient road infrastructure and funding mechanisms,

- Evaluation of sustainable construction materials and cost-effective maintenance approaches, and

- Strengthening of laboratory capacity and technical research infrastructure.

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Global Learning, Local Impact

The University recently held the International Education Week, hosted by the Department of Corporate Engagement and International Relations under the theme Global Learning, Local Impact: Shaping Global Citizens. A timely reminder that global exposure is most powerful when it is rooted in local purpose. The week highlighted how studying abroad, hosting international students, and learning across cultures strengthen education, diplomacy, and global understanding.



who understand diverse cultures, who can function across borders, but who remain committed to contributing meaningfully at home. This is what it means to shape global citizens," she said.

And NUST continues to expand such opportunities. "In March 2026, I signed an agreement enabling our students to participate in the Global Intercultural Project Experience (GIPE). This collaboration with Universidad Católica San Pablo in Peru, Westfälische Hochschule in Germany, and Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia aims to promote knowledge exchange, foster innovative solutions, and strengthen capacities within interdisciplinary and multicultural contexts," stated Prof Andrew Niikondo, NUST Vice-Chancellor.

Spanning over three days, the programme celebrated internationalisation not as an abstract ideal, but as a practical pathway to national development. Helena Kuzee, the Deputy Director: International Organisations, delivered remarks at the official opening event on behalf of the Ministry of International Relations and Trade. "We must produce graduates who are confident in global spaces, yet grounded in Namibian, and by extension, African realities. Individuals

That message came to life through student voices. During a testimony session, final-year Marketing Honours student Zenodine Bassinghtwaite reflected on her exchange experience in Ravensburg, Germany. What began as a simple conversation with a professor evolved into an opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in London. "I was given access. Access to the world and access to opportunities beyond my comprehen-

The week unfolded through dialogue and experience. From a café-style knowledge exchange that fostered cross-cultural conversations, to a vibrant cultural showcase featuring global cuisines prepared by students. NUST is home to 1 161 international students and 189 permanent staff from across the world, with representation spanning from Benin to Pakistan, and from Cuba to the United Kingdom.

Dr-in-waiting...

Laurica Afrikaner, is making waves in the water sector!

In 2024, NUST recognised top-performing students in various disciplines through its full-time Prestigious Research Excellence Scholarships (PRES), valued at over two million Namibia dollars.

Afrikaner, who will be getting her PhD in Natural Resource Science at the May Graduation. Laurica is set to make a powerful impact in the water sector. She was recently interviewed by the NUST Brief.

within the water sector and strengthened my commitment to contributing scientifically grounded solutions to Namibia's groundwater management challenges. Having dedicated funding for my studies was truly a blessing, as it allowed me to focus fully on my research without financial constraints.

This was the first time the University availed funds of this nature as part of the initiatives funded through the Institutional Research Publications Committee (IRPC). One of the beneficiaries was Laurica Celeste

NUST Brief (NB): What does receiving the PRES scholarship mean to you?

Laurica Celeste Afrikaner (LCA): Receiving the PRES scholarship was such an honour and I am truly humbled by being recognised. It affirmed the relevance of my research

It was particularly valuable in supporting publication efforts and enabling participation in conferences, where my work could be shared and refined through engagement with the broader scientific community.

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NUST Leadership Visits Zambezi Region



Members of the NUST Management, led by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof Andrew Niikondo, recently conducted a regional visit to the Zambezi Region. During the visit, the team also paid a courtesy visit to the Governor for the Zambezi Region, Dorothy Kabula Seated in the front, from left to right: Prof Andrew Niikondo; Dorothy Kabula; and Acting Chief Regional Officer for the Zambezi Region, Sylvester Simwanza.