



# NUST BRIEF

## The Dawn of an Era - NUST welcomes a new Vice-Chancellor

After a rigorous recruitment process, the NUST Council appointed Dr Eroid Naomab as the substantive Vice-Chancellor of the University. Dr Naomab becomes the second head of the Institution ever since it was established in 1996, as the Polytechnic of Namibia.



out of the new polytechnic. This I captured in my concept paper by early 1996, which formed the basis for the transformation blueprint of 2010. That in essence served as the application to the government to transform and redesignate the Polytechnic as the new Namibia University of Science and Technology."

### Traditions and procedures

The Chairperson of NUST Council, Ms Florette Nakusera, officially introduced Dr Naomab to Hon Prof Peter Katjavivi, the NUST Chancellor who is also Speaker of the National Assembly. "Prior to his appointment as

**"Access to higher education is not a privilege but a right and hence students from disadvantaged backgrounds need to have access to education and this helps to change the course of poverty in their communities,"**  
- Dr Naomab

Earlier this week, a Robing Ceremony was held to celebrate this milestone. The gathering was attended by a limited number of guests in accordance to the COVID-19 national restrictions. Guests included the Executive Director of the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Dr Alfred Van Kent, the Vice-Chancellors of both the University of Namibia and the International University of Management, NUST EXCO members and Faculty Deans amongst others.

### Paving the way

The NUST Founding Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tjama Tjivikua graced the occasion and officially bade farewell to an institution he led for nearly two decades. Going down memory lane, he said, "during my telephonic interview in June 1995 for the post of Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia, I projected a vision for a future technological university to be born

Vice-Chancellor at NUST, he was the Assistant Pro Vice-Chancellor at UNAM's Southern Campus, Founding Director of this Campus and Head of Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry at UNAM, where he also taught and supervised at both under- and postgraduate level. Dr Naomab served in various advisory roles at national, regional and

international level," she said.

The Chancellor then proceeded to confer authority to the new Vice-Chancellor by robing him in a gown and bonnet.

### Passing the baton

Dr Andrew Niikondo, as the outgoing Acting Vice-Chancellor, handed over the Seal of the University, Statutes and the NUST Act to Dr Naomab, a gesture that symbolises handing over the reigns.

### The Inaugural Speech

Although he assumed office on 01 January 2021, this Ceremony, which also served as the Academic Welcome, marked the first opportunity for the new Vice-Chancellor to address the entire campus community. "One of the key goals during my tenure, is to promote financial sustainability, however, it is common cause that the unit cost of offering learning is rising, institutional debts is rising, threatening the vary sustainability of NUST. Whilst it is indisputable that NUST cannot function without government subsidies, it is of paramount importance

that the Institution, on its part, also scales up its efforts to diversify income streams," Dr Naomab remarked.

He further spoke briefly about the NUST theme for the year: 'Re-Envisioning Higher Education in a post-COVID-19 Era' where he made it clear that this theme does not imply the end of the pandemic. "This theme implores

us to look to the future and critically assess the important lessons we have learnt, to be proactive and embrace the opportunities brought about to revitalise higher education for the COVID-19 Generation," he explained. Dr Naomab, who has authored several publications with research and teaching experience of more than two decades, will serve the Institution for a five-year term.



Dr Eroid Naomab, Vice-Chancellor of NUST, delivered his Inaugural and Academic Welcome Address to the guests after his official robing. During his speech, Dr Naomab made it clear that he does not tolerate gender-based violence or corruption of any form and will not allow it to rear its ugly head at the institution.



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From left to right: Dr Tjama Tjivikua (Founding NUST Vice-Chancellor), Prof Peter Katjavivi (NUST Chancellor and Speaker of the National Assembly), Ms Florette Nakusera (NUST Council Chairperson), and Dr Eroid Naomab (NUST Vice-Chancellor).



The founding Vice-Chancellor of NUST, Dr Tjama Tjivikua was given a leather bag travel set, engraved with his name.

He also received a framed photo collage of his tenure at the Institution, from the then Polytechnic of Namibia to NUST.