



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

Opening remarks by Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi at the memorial Lecture in Honour of the late Professor Calestous Juma, at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Windhoek, Namibia on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018, at 18:00

Venue: Auditorium 1, NUST

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Director of Ceremonies,

Your Excellency, Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Monica Geingos, First Lady.

Your Excellency, Mr Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Mbumba;

Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;

Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation;

Guest Speaker, Honourable Naledi Pandor, South African Minister of Higher Education and Training.

Members of Parliament

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers here present,

Your Excellency, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Namibia;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Academic Fraternity,

Our Students

Members of the Media,

Distinguished invited guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Good evening,**

My task is simple, and it is to welcome His Excellency the President, Dr Hage Geingob, our guest speaker, the Honourable Naledi Pandor, Minister of Higher Education and Training from South Africa and you all to this auspicious event. It is indeed a pleasure to see so many of you here.

We gather here for life's rich moments of the late Professor Calestous Juma, where we signal the end of a life and try to express what that means at this important memorial lecture in honour of the late Professor Calestous Juma.

We honour his memory with this dedicated moment of warmth and affection to Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), and in the progression of the years he lived. Professor Calestous Juma has been a companion in the journey of many others, including our very own President.

Professor Calestous Juma was born in June 1953 in Kenya. His life may not have reached to the headlines, but by that wonderful mystery of 'belonging' that God has placed within him, Professor Juma reached out too many hearts in so many ways, especially to Science, Technology and Innovation which we celebrate today.

## **Director of ceremonies, H.E. the President**

Late Professor Calestous Juma's interest in science, technology and innovation started way back at the age of nine, when an overflow of water in his village led to a flood and as a result, shortage of food in the entire community. That event nurtured his first innovation experience.

We are informed that due to his unique and promising way of writing at the early stage of his life, he was hired by Kenya's Daily Nation newspaper, making him the first African Journalist writer of science and environment.

## **Director of Ceremonies**

It is imperative that we teach our children and youth about these great sons and daughters of our continent and their great sacrifices, for the young people are our future. Our youth should understand what selfless service on behalf of others can accomplish.

The late Professor Calestous Juma left a mark of monumental achievement in Africa, and the whole world. This African icon and mentor, sadly passed away on Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, after a two-year long battle with cancer.

I believe that Professor Calestous Juma would say to the youth of Africa, today, many years after Independence; what President J.F Kennedy said

to the youth of America of his time: **“Ask not what your country can do for you; but ask what you can do for your country”!**

### **Director of Ceremonies**

I want to sincerely thank and acknowledge the presence of His Excellency the President, Dr Hage G. Geingob, who had the privilege of having met this illustrious son of our continent, to this memorial lecture. In September 2016, His Excellency the President delivered a public address at the John F Kennedy JR Forum at Harvard University, which public lecturer was moderated by none other than the late Professor Calestous Juma. Your Excellency, your presence here speaks volume and is highly appreciated, that though you have lost your good friend, Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, you elected to grace this platform.

As Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation allow me to welcome our Guest Speaker, the Honourable Naledi Pandor, South African Minister of Higher Education and Training to the Republic of Namibia and the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

To my fellow Ministers and Deputy Minister, welcome to this very important event in memory of a great African scientist and writer.

May I also welcome and thank the High Commission of the Republic of Kenya, other dignitaries present here: for making time to this memorial

lecture to pay tribute to the late Professor Calestous Juma and equally be inspired.

To the media here present, welcome and thank for always inform our citizenry of these inspiring event.

Ladies and gentlemen and fellow citizens present here please feel welcome to NUST. I have no doubt that you will be challenged, excited and inspired by the story and the presentation here tonight.

May the soul of Professor Calestous Juma Continue to Rest in eternal Peace.

I thank you