



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Welcoming Remarks

**MR MORNÉ du TOIT
ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR
NUST Graduation Ceremony 2019**

**Friday, 26 April 2019
09h00**

Safari Court Hotel, Windhoek

I stand by the protocol that has been duly established by the Registrar.

Good morning. On behalf of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this Graduation Ceremony. What a wonderful day indeed!

Firstly, allow me to welcome the Chairperson of the NUST Council, Adv Esi Schimming-Chase, as well as our Guest Speaker Mr Erwin Tjipuka, CEO of First National Bank, Namibia.

This year graduation signifies a historic moment for the university, as it heralds a beginning of a new era. In this regard, a heartfelt gratitude to the Founding Vice-Chancellor of NUST, Dr Tjama Tjivikua, for the tremendous foundational work he has done in building this young, but great University.

It is gratifying for me personally, that NUST continues to deliver in many key areas of our strategic thrust and to create ripples even beyond our shores in the areas of research and innovation! However, the world you inherit is beset with great challenges. Change is upon us – whether we want it or not. Yet – you have the greatest opportunity in generations; to be the architects and builders of a new Namibia. You belong to a small group who have been equipped to take on such a daunting a role. You may exercise it wherever you stand – but it goes beyond having a job in a company or any other organization – it means you are engaging in society, be it in Namibia or beyond. You will not just be a cog in a grand machine (as many of my generation were) but you will be a node in a vibrant network of engaged individuals in industry and society.

YOU WILL HAVE PURPOSE like no generation before you. Namibian Companies are currently struggling in defining this broader purpose for themselves and their constituents – but they have started to understand that they are not acting in isolation but as part of a wider society.

Today we are gathered here to celebrate your success. One where we can raise our heads high; for you have overcome all the challenges life threw at you in the past number of years. It has not been easy, but you have reached the end of this hurdle. It is also the beginning of a new one, and I want to encourage you never to relent. I want to encourage you to use the same spirit that you have shown in

succeeding at NUST, the sacrifices you have made, the sleepless nights you have endured, in succeeding in the next stage of your life beyond NUST.

Some of you came to this great university with expectations, high or low; but graduating today, tells me only one thing that our expectations have been met, and the ball has been thrown at you to transform your lives, your families, communities, and humanity in general.

To your parents, families, your communities and friends, I thank you for supporting our graduates during their journey at NUST. Your families are extremely proud of you. You cannot imagine the sense of joy they are experiencing here today. I now ask all those parents, family and friends that you continue to challenge our graduates to be the best they can be as they enter the next stage of their journey.

Director of Ceremony

Today also marks a milestone in the lives of our graduating students and it warrants celebration as it is representing the culmination of years of hard work, commitment and focus. You and your families have made sacrifices to achieve this goal, and we salute you all.

We take note and acknowledge that for many of you, your attainments today came in defiance of many obstacles and challenges along the way. That is why, we are here to acknowledge your efforts, your persistence, your unflagging spirits and your will to succeed.

Since achieving a degree or diploma is the product of a collective effort, we also recognise and thank your lecturers, the University support staff and all those who have walked this journey with you. We wish you well on the next chapter of your intellectual and career journey.

Director of Ceremony

It is also a milestone for others here today. This is the last graduation for the first term of office for Chairperson of the NUST Council, Adv Esi Schimming-Chase and her fellow Council members. She has guided and nurtured NUST from a Polytechnic to a fully-fledged University, which you see before you today. It has not been an easy journey at times, but I ask Adv Schimming-Chase to look before her today and observe the fruits of her and her team's success, the

thousands of graduates who have passed through NUST under her guidance. On behalf of the University, staff, students and Namibia as a whole we thank you for the contributions and sacrifices you have made to bring us to this day today. THANK YOU.

In conclusion, may I express my happiness and excitement on your graduation day, and I am so proud of you! Lastly, as you enter a new chapter in your lives, I trust that this University has equipped you not only with skills, but also with the capacity for critical thinking and a desire to engage with the world around you. Hearty congratulations to all of you!

I thank you.