



**ΠΑΜΙΒΙΑ  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

**WELCOMING REMARKS**

**BY**

**DR TJAMA TJIVIKUA**

***VICE-CHANCELLOR***

**AT THE**

**NUST OFFICIAL OPENING 2017**

**ON**

**01 FEBRUARY 2017**

**AT**

**08H00**

Director of Ceremonies

Honourable Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation

Our Special Entertainment Guest, Mr Morocy Mbwalub, a.k.a. The Dogg

Senior Management

Faculty Members and Scholars

Staff Members

Members of the Students' Representatives Council and the Housing Committee

Esteemed Students

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very privileged to welcome you all to our University community as we celebrate the beginning of a new academic year. It is a special moment for all of us because a university is a special place. A university is special because it is a revered platform for intellectualism, which is defined as *the exercise of the intellect at the expense of the emotions*, or, philosophically or more elaborately, as *the theory that knowledge is wholly or mainly derived from pure reason; it is rationalism*.

As we all know, what distinguishes the human being from other creatures is the size of the brain relative to body size, especially the frontal cortex, where reasoning resides. Because humans are better endowed than other animals in this respect, the human intellect rules the world. Given that

universities cultivate the human brain and thus intellectualism, it means that the development of human intellectual capacity and ingenuity are primarily vested in universities.

And so I'm elated to see so many faces - young and old, but primarily and predominantly young - at this welcoming event of the new year, yearning for new knowledge, new discoveries and enlightenment. These are the ingredients and driving motives of humanity and of our existence as a university. Because they are the foundation stones of economic development, growth and prosperity.

This is a new year filled with hope and anticipation, with dreams of success and greatness. Each one of us has a dream to fulfill and that dream needs to be cultivated in the right environment. And where else but at a university - for the young student, for the professor and scholar and for the administrator?

And so it pleases me to welcome our Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation who will this morning share her wisdom with us through her keynote speech and for all of us to share our experiences in welcoming each other. Honourable Minister, in partnership with your Ministry and the Government of Namibia, we stand ready to serve this nation and humanity all over the world.

This Institution shares with this nation a relatively short history of higher education: first as Technikon Namibia from 1985 until 1995, then as the Polytechnic of Namibia from 1995 until 2015, and now as the Namibia University of Science and Technology, since November 2015. Much effort and sacrifice have been invested in the endeavour to create a university. And we are proud to have created the best-rated university in Namibia according to public opinion and credible surveys as evidenced by the local and international awards bestowed on this university over the years.

We have built a university with a strong reputation for excellence, known for cultivating the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education in Namibia and for also cultivating entrepreneurship, innovation. This is so in spite of meager public funding to this Institution since its inception, amidst a load of other enormous challenges. And to this day, we appeal to government for our fair share of funding and express our concern about unfair and inconsistent funding, especially in these hard economic times.

Our call for appropriate funding shall never end until justice is served. Indeed our concerns about funding are highlighted in these hard economic times and we must speak out about diminishing and inconsistent funding, because once we corrode or damage the foundation of universities, we imperil our competitiveness and socio-economic prosperity. And our legacy will only be preserved when we stand up for this University and manage to overcome this huge economic challenge while maintaining our trademark of excellence. So I challenge each one of us, and our government, to excel in all we do. To be conscientious about resource management and be efficient and effective in all we do.

In conclusion, let me say that we are proud of our University, proud of every member of our community. And surely, we are proud of, and thankful to, our Ministry for the excellent collaboration and support.

And as I welcome you all, once again, I wish you a fabulous 2017 academic year. Let's celebrate newness and renewal, let's celebrate dedication and collaboration, let's celebrate innovation and excellence.

I thank you.