



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

MR MORNÉ DU TOIT

ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR

AT

THE NUST SPRING GRADUATION CEREMONY

ON

11 OCTOBER 2019

AT

SAFARI COURT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

WINDHOEK

Good morning to you all.

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

I am delighted to welcome you all to this prestigious occasion.

Firstly, I recognise the presence of Hon Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation. Thank you for gracing us with your presence. Mr Ipumbu Shiimi, the Governor of the Bank of Namibia and our Guest Speaker today, we look forward to your remarks.

Secondly, I welcome all the grandaunts and parents. We are gathered here today to celebrate your hard work and academic achievements. It has not been easy, and many of you have endured several challenges to be able to be here today. One of the challenges that we cannot shy away from, is critical issue of lack of student funding for many of our students.

Resources are scarce and the only way this storm could be weathered is if we work together. Whilst the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund has the obligation to contribute to Namibia's development by being the key provider for student funding, it also the responsibility of various private and public sector stakeholders in contributing to education, which is a public good.

Availing scholarships and other funding opportunities will go a long way in giving students, especially the youth, an opportunity to thrive and become responsible and productive citizens. For this reason, later this year, the University plans to host the first ever Students Financial Aid Expo. The objective is to create a platform where learners and students alike, will have the opportunity to engage various corporates and obtain valuable information regarding funding opportunities. The cost of higher education continues to rise. Against this background, it is critical for students now, more than ever before, to become

aware of issues such as funding options, repayment arrangements and interest rates.

Director of Ceremonies

Charity begins at home. We cannot therefore, only look to others to open their wallets. Although NUST is not a profit-making organisation, we must seek ways to assist deserving underprivileged students not to drop out of their academic studies by contributing to improving their academic and social welfare. For this reason, NUST has hosted a fundraising Golf Day during the first semester. The purpose was to raise funds to assist underprivileged students from low-income backgrounds to meet their expenses. These expenses include, food, purchasing of learning materials and medical expenses, amongst others.

Moreover, a new department, aimed at strengthening relations with the Institution's graduates, was established a few months ago. The name of this Department is the Alumni and University Foundation. The Department will, amongst other activities, be responsible for fundraising initiatives.

The University has also intensified its austerity measures to manage its financial resources prudently, and to ensure sustainability in the provision of relevant and quality higher education in Namibia. Although the decisions and choices that the University has to make has been painful at times, these decisions are imperative to guarantee sustainability.

Director of Ceremonies

Today, we will see more than 400 students graduating. Amongst this cohort is students who will receive the Master of English and Applied Linguistics, and the Postgraduate Diploma in Management. These are qualifications that will be awarded for the first time at NUST.

Furthermore, we have six students from FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences in Germany, amongst us, who will be awarded the Bachelor of Civil Engineering Double Degree programme. This was made possible through an international partner Agreement between our two Universities. Under the Civil Engineering Double Degree programme, students are afforded the opportunity to take part in exchange opportunities and obtain qualifications endorsed by both NUST and FH Aachen.

Dear grandaunts

Henry Ford, the founder of Ford Motor Company once said and I quote:

*“When everything seems to be going against you, remember
that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it”*

Keep this in mind as you start the next stage of your adventure!

I thank you.