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Public Statement: New NUST Council Inaugurated

Hon Dr Sanet Steenkamp, the Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC), officially inaugurated the new Council of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) on Wednesday, 11 November 2026. The Council will serve for a three-year term, which officially commenced in September 2026, with Dr Leake Hangala serving as Chairperson. The governing body brings together representatives with expertise in higher education, public administration, industry, and institutional governance.

As the University's highest governing body, the Council is responsible for providing strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and overseeing institutional governance. Its leadership will be instrumental in advancing NUST's mandate of providing quality higher education, promoting research and innovation, and contributing to Namibia's socio-economic development.

Addressing the gathering, Hon Dr Steenkamp emphasised that the University's success must be measured by tangible contributions to national development. "Our measure of success must ultimately extend beyond institutional rankings and strategic documents. It must be reflected in the quality of our graduates, the relevance of our research, the innovations we generate, the partnerships we establish and the practical contribution we make to the development of our country," she said.

Dr Hangala emphasised the importance of moving from institutional planning to implementation, particularly in relation to the NUST Integrated Strategic Business Plan (ISBP) 2026–2030. "We must translate its strategic objectives into measurable targets, clear responsibilities, implementation programmes, and performance indicators. We must establish a culture of execution, where progress is measured, performance is monitored, and results are delivered," he said.

A key highlight of the inaugural meeting was the signing of the Governance Agreement, underscoring the importance of accountability, effective governance, and clearly defined responsibilities in the leadership and oversight of the University.

The inauguration comes at an important time for NUST as the University advances the implementation of its ISBP 2026–2030. The Council's strategic guidance will be essential in supporting the University's institutional priorities, strengthening its sustainability, and ensuring that its academic, research, and innovation activities remain responsive to national development needs.

Members of the NUST Council (2026-2029)

1. Dr Leake Hangala – Chairperson
2. Ms Patricia Olivier – Deputy Chairperson
3. Hon Thomas Adams
4. Mr Mbumba Haitengela
5. Mr Gert Maritz
6. Mr Isak Ndipwashimwe
7. Prof Bernadette Mwiya
8. Dr Fidelis Mwazi
9. Hon Matheus Shoongo
10. Ms Jessica Hauanga
11. Ms Flora Gaes
12. Prof Frednard Gideon – Vice-Chancellor
13. Ms Miriam Dikuua – Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Finance and Operations
14. Prof Teresia Kaulihowa – Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning
15. Prof Colin Stanley – Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Technovation
16. Ms Selma Heelu – Acting Registrar and Secretary to Council
17. Prof Harmony Musiyarira – Senate Representative
18. Dr Gloria Tshoopara – Academic Staff Representative
19. Mr Eino Shilongo – Administrative Staff Representative
20. Mr Shoki Kandjimi – Alumni Representative
21. Mr Jerome !Nanuseb – SRC President
22. Mr Joshua Kaumbi – Legal Advisor to Council

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