



First semester officially kicks-off!

Earlier this week, the Official Opening event took place on campus, marking the start of the new academic year. Although registration is scheduled to end on 24 March 2021, classes have begun. The cohort of students that are yet to register will be accommodated accordingly, to ensure they do not fall behind with their studies.

At the event, new and senior students gathered to listen to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, the Students' Representative Council's President, Pamela Gertze and various other motivational speakers.

Dr Naomab spoke extensively about the advancements in teaching and learning, in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "Being physically present in a lecture room is no longer the only learning option, hence we must embrace the future," he said, adding that until further notice, the University will forge ahead with online teaching, complimented by face-to-face interventions.

This, he said, will be done under a strictly controlled operational environment in compliance with the national health and safety measures.

Gertze echoed similar sentiments, saying;

"this is an opportunity to be part of something great, an opportunity to grow as we move out of our comfort zones."

Melvin Angula, the Chief Commercial Officer of MTC and an alumnus of the Institution, was one of the speakers. He highlighted that passion combined with perseverance is the ultimate mental determination needed for a student to succeed in their endeavours.

Delivering the keynote address, Shiwomeho Kalla, the founder of Shiwa the Baker, a local baking business, spoke highly about turning challenges into opportunities.

Over the years, Kalla's brand has become a force to be reckoned with.

She has expanded her business to not only selling sweet treats, but also empowering upcoming entrepreneurs by offering classes to people of all ages.



New and senior students gathered at the Official Opening event.



Sunny Boy Musician



Shiwomeho Kalla Keynote speaker



Dr Eroid Naomab NUST Vice-Chancellor

Engaging learners at DHPS

Staff members from NUST's India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (INCEIT), recently visited the Deutsche Höhere Privatschule (DHPS), to take part in a Career Day. The INCEIT Centre Head, Arpit Jain, gave a brief overview about the programmes offered, such as Ethical Hacking; Python Programming; and Cybersecurity.

"We engaged learners from Grade 9 to

12 to give them insight on possible career opportunities within the Information Technology field," Jain said.

The visit forms part of many initiatives that INCEIT has embarked on to increase its student enrolment. Since its inception in August 2019, more than 100 students have been admitted in various IT programmes. For more information, please scan the QR Code.



Arpit Jain, INCEIT Centre Head, addressing learners at DHPS.



Soft Skills Training Centre for Enterprise Development (CED)

Course	Date	Cost
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Land delivery for over 1 000 households

Through an existing institutional partnership with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN), and the Namibia Housing Action Group (NHAG), an upgrading settlement option in Gobabis was co-developed. To date, the project has availed land to over 1 110 households. Other key partners include, the Gobabis Municipality, and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.

The process started around 2012, when data was collected by residents of the area, and based on their findings, discussions followed amongst various stakeholders to develop the settlement called Freedom Square. In the same year, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Gobabis Municipality, SDFN and NHAG, was signed. This laid the grounds for a series of "planning studios" with town and regional planning students in NUST's Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning.

In these studios, students analysed the site, mapped infrastructure and features, and engaged community members to design layouts of "re-blocking" the structures in the settlement into a formal setting. With support from the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and other international partners, the project became part of the Flexible Land Tenure (FLT) pilot project. The Ministry then availed N\$10 million to install infrastructure (water and sewer) in the site through community training. Communities excavated the trenches and installed their water lines and constructed manholes through training.

"A contractor KSP assisted with excavation of sewer trenches and offered to lay sewer

pipes at no cost. After the completion of the services, pressure tests on water and sewer were done and passed, and services were handed over to Gobabis Municipality. Before installing the services, the community requested that they be provided with prepaid water meters instead of conventional water meters," said Dr Guillermo Delgado, the Land, Livelihoods and Housing Programme Coordinator at NUST's Integrated Land Management Institution (ILMI).

The Departments of Architecture and Spatial Planning; and Land and Property Sciences, also played key roles in bringing this project to fruition. Funding was sourced from Selavip in Europe to purchase 200 prepaid water metres.

Moreover, 20 houses were completed and a further 10 brick-and-mortar built ones are currently under construction. Earlier this month, 988 residents were presented with certificates of their land hold titles through the FLT project.

Students and lecturers have participated in different aspects of the process of this case study, which has resulted in journal publications, Masters and PhD dissertations.



Stakeholders discussing development options for Freedom Square, Gobabis.