



NUST BRIEF

NUST and NSFAF renew agreement

NUST and the Namibia Students' Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF), recently renewed an agreement that aims to strengthen relations between the two parties. NSFAF currently provides financial support to more than 40% of the student population at the University.

With many young people facing hardships, NSFAF brings much-needed relief to disadvantaged Namibians, by giving them the chance to better their lives through access to education. "Human capital is our greatest national resource; therefore, it is in the nation's interest to support the individual students' interest to harness their potential and ultimately shape their destiny," emphasised Dr Eroid Naomab, the NUST Vice-Chancellor.

The three-year agreement obligates NSFAF to commitments, such as paying the University within a reasonable amount of time, and in turn, NUST shall allow beneficiaries to attend all lectures, tutoring and other related educational programmes.

Acting Chief Executive Officer of NSFAF, Kennedy Kandume, said that the fund would ensure a 100% tuition payment to all NSFAF

registered students, once they have received their budget from treasury.

"It is a commitment from us to pay students' tuition fees in full at an appropriate time while ensuring that students are not disadvantaged for owing the university," he said.

Dr Naomab used the platform to address matters relating to student debt. "I would like for us all, as partners in education, to explore ways of ensuring our students start off on the right foot after they graduate. We need to mitigate the burden of debt on students, so that we do not transfer these challenges onto future generations. In the same vein, we need to educate them about the value of repaying debts because this too will have adverse effects on future generations, who also need to benefit from these very same coffers," he emphasised.



Kennedy Kandume, Acting Chief Executive Officer: NSFAF (left), and Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor (right).

Exploring cleaner alternative energy sources



The participants from various key local industries such as the food and beverage, and mining sectors, attended the session.

NUST's Namibia Energy Institute (NEI), recently conducted an Information Sharing Workshop for local industries to explore the feasibility of using solar thermal energy for industrial processes. More than 15 participants from various key local industries, in the food and beverage, and mining sectors, attended the session.

The initiative is part of the framework of Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN) project. The focus of SOLTRAIN is to contribute towards reducing energy poverty by improving access to sustainable energies, thus directly contributing to the realisation of some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Solar thermal energy harnesses sunlight to generate thermal energy, which produces heat instead of electricity. This is then transferred into your home or business heating system to produce hot water among other things," Fenni Shidhika, researcher at NEI explained.

"The need to promote alternative energy sources and adoption of energy efficient technologies plays a critical role in the industry. It leads to the reduction of electricity bills, reduced air pollution, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and enables greater electrical grid stability," explained Nico Snyders, Deputy Director of Ministry of

Mines and Energy.

Experts are of the opinion that the usage of solar thermal energy, for various industrial processes, will eventually emerge as the most conventional option to mitigating climate change.

Prof Pramanathan Govender, the NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation said: "NUST is looking into embracing solar energy research and innovation as a niche area for addressing issues of energy access, energy inadequacy and the environmental concerns."

The one-day workshop was facilitated by Dr Wener Weiss, Managing Director of AEE-Institute for Sustainable Technologies (AEE - INTEC,) together with the local implementers of the SOLTRAIN project. Henning Holms from, Holms and Friends, a South African solar energy consulting enterprise, also made his contribution by sharing his experiences in the sector.

NEXT @ NUST

2021 Registration

Senior Students:	08 - 12 March 2021
Late Registration of all Faculties:	15 - 19 March 2021
Faculty of Engineering:	23 - 26 March 2021
Faculty of Engineering Late Registration:	29 March - 01 April 2021

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Soft Skills Training Centre for Enterprise Development (CED)

Course Name	Deadline	Cost
Risk Management in the Financial Sector	12 March 2021	N\$4 200
Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers	19 March 2021	N\$6 200
Excellence in Customer Service	19 March 2021	N\$4 200
Emotional Intelligence at the Workplace	19 March 2021	N\$4 200
Project Management (advanced level)	26 March 2021	N\$6 200

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