NUST 2019 Spring Graduation Ceremony gets face-lift

Over 400 students graduated from NUST last week at a Ceremony that was revamped and made bigger and better. The event was not only a celebration for the graduates, but it served as an inspirational occasion, as they embark on a new chapter of their lives.

From mobile phones being permitted in the venue, to live streaming the event on various social media platforms, the event offered many new features. Various stakeholders were also given the opportunity to congratulate the graduates in the media. Additionally, various youthful NUST alumni gave motivational speeches ahead of the official proceedings.

**Governor motivates the youth**

The Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Mr Ipumubu Shimi, addressed the gathering. His speech, which zeroed-in on his childhood experiences, to the importance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, was received with admiration from all quarters.

Speaking about how young people should prepare themselves for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, he said: “The youth should work hard to establish their own digital companies which will create value and serve the world population. The youth should also develop products and services that can be sold on existing platforms such as Alibaba, Amazon etc. This way you are not limited to the small Namibian market as you have access to the global market.”

**Minister gives reassurance**

The Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Hon Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, delivered the keynote address:

“I am well aware that whilst today is indeed a joyous occasion, many of you are anxious. Anxious about what the future holds. It takes conscious efforts to be optimistic at times of uncertainty, but I want to reassure you that the Namibian Government is not oblivious to the challenges many of our people are facing. Government has invested heavily in creating employment opportunities for young people in efforts to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the country. It is a gradual process.”

Priceless moment
...as student graduates in hospital

During the Ceremony, the broadcast was viewed live over 70,000 on Facebook within and beyond Namibia’s borders. Our most popular post across the social media platforms read as follows:

One of our students and former SRC member, Angy Uumati, was in ICU a few days ago and could not make it to the Ceremony. So... we thought, why not have a Ceremony for her at the hospital. The Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Prof Alinah Segobye and the Registrar, Mr Moss Garde gave Angy her degree a short while ago, in the presence of her close family and friends. We got your back Angy! Get well soon #nustgraduation2019

During the visit, Uumati was delighted to receive her qualification in such a unique manner. The hospital staff also joined in on the celebration and gave her a cake to mark the occasion. Her mother expressed her utmost gratitude for the gestures, saying that her daughter had been looking forward to attending the Ceremony, but her health interfered with her plans. Prof Segobye said that this was a bitter-sweet moment and wished her a speedy recovery on behalf of the University.

I want to reassure you that the Namibian Government is not oblivious to the challenges many of our people are facing,”

Hon Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation
New programmes awarded in three faculties

Three programmes were awarded for the first time at the just-ended Ceremony. The University continuously seeks ways to ensure curriculum development by revising existing programmes, in addition to introducing new ones.

The programmes are:

Master of English and Applied Linguistics (MEAL)

Thirteen (13) candidates received Masters in English and Applied Linguistics (MEAL) qualification, under the Faculty of Human Sciences. The MEAL programme focuses on applied linguistics, digital literacies, popular literature and the application of literary and linguistic knowledge to solve real world problems. The graduates are now well-grounded in language, cognitive stylistics, functional linguistics and communication skills and some have already proceeded to doctoral studies. Career opportunities: lecturers, language researchers, news editors, teachers, curriculum developers, language policymakers, translators, content developers for media.

Postgraduate Diploma in Management

Sixteen (16) students obtained this qualification, under the Harold Pupkewitz - Graduate School of Business (HP-GBS), Faculty of Management Sciences. The programme seeks to improve the competitiveness of human capital locally, regionally and internationally by embedding required knowledge, skills and competencies. Furthermore, the diploma is specifically structured to address self-management and management of people, as well as managing financial resources. Career opportunities include managerial position across various sectors.

Bachelor of Civil Engineering Double Degree

Six (6) students from FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences in Germany, were awarded the Bachelor of Civil Engineering Double Degree programme under the Faculty of Engineering. This was made possible through an international partner Agreement between NUST and FH Aachen. Under the Civil Engineering Double Degree programme, students are afforded the opportunity to take part in exchange opportunities and obtain qualifications endorsed by both universities. The graduates are now equipped with theoretical and practical skills that will enable them to plan, design, construct, and maintain structures such as bridges, dams and buildings. Career opportunities: urban planning engineer, environments engineer, construction supervisor etc.

Former SRC President, Marvellous Shilongo, who also graduated, wore an outfit with a cape that had names of the people that contributed to her success. The names included her family and friends, as well as well-known influential figures such as Ms Daisry Mathias, an Advisor to Namibia’s Head of State; Mr Morné du Toit, the NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor; Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the former NUST Vice-Chancellor; and Mr Iipumbu Shiimi, the Governor of the Bank of Namibia.

Shilongo obtained a Bachelor of Economics degree. Her outfit tells a marvellous story!