



NUST Ohangwena Campus on the horizon

Plans to establish a NUST satellite campus in the town of Eenhana, Ohangwena Region, are well underway. It is envisaged that the campus will offer an assortment of programmes, with a particular focus on Natural Sciences, Management Sciences, as well as Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

Despite the fact that Ohangwena is one of the most densely populated regions in Namibia, there are no institutions of higher learning in this part of the country, with the exception of the Eenhana Vocational Training Centre. Speaking at a meeting that was held to discuss the establishment of the new campus, Hon Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, said the decentralisation of NUST's services has become a priority. "Education needs to be taken to the masses of the country. Windhoek no longer holds the masses," she said.

The Patron

Former President of Namibia, HE Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, who was also in attendance, has been selected as the Patron of the campus. During the engagement, he highlighted that the Eenhana Town Council has already indicated a possible area to be utilised for the prospective University.

All hands on deck

The NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, expressed his confidence in the project's success, due to his experience in facilitating new establishments. "I am 110% committed to ensure that this project reaches fruition," he emphasised. The meeting was also attended by the NUST Chancellor and Speaker of National Assembly, Hon Prof Peter Katjavivi, the NUST Council Chairperson, Florette Nakusera, and senior management of the Ministry and University.

The roll-out

NUST will now embark on a vigorous stakeholder engagement process, locally and internationally, to solicit support and funds for the project. The project will then be rolled-out in two phases, focusing on programme offerings and infrastructure development, respectively.



Third from left: Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor; Hon Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation; HE Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, Patron; Florette Nakusera, NUST Council Chairperson, pictured with other senior delegates.



Hon Prof Peter Katjavivi



HE Hifikepunye Pohamba



Students from the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences about to demonstrate cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Childminders get First Aid training

What started off as a semi-formal training session for nine childminders, a few years ago, has slowly transformed into a small business that has trained over 180 women, to date. The Victoria Nanny Agency, with assistance from the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences (FHAS), offers basic First Aid training to childminders as part of community engagement.

The first training session for the year started in February, while the next one is scheduled to take place in April. The last training was provided by the Faculty's third-year students.

"We help women to gain basic skills on how to save children's lives, the importance of good hygiene practices and basic awareness about HIV/AIDS, amongst others" said Victoria Joseph, the Manager of the agency.

"The training is aimed at creating awareness of what to do in emergency situations. It takes the form of mostly

demonstrations for choking management and how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation," Carolie Cloete, the Emergency Medical Care Programme Coordinator at FHAS elaborated. NUST offers a three-year Bachelor of Emergency Medical Care degree, designed to provide students with techniques, principles, concepts, and problem-solving techniques of emergency medical care.

The agency plans on expanding training to parents in the future, as well as various towns across the country.

Southern farmers venture into organic farming

The Centre for Enterprise Development (CED) at NUST, recently facilitated a two-day sustainable organic farming workshop, in partnership with the Omomas Care Centre (OCC). Founded in 2005, OCC is an association that is involved in projects that aim to better the lives of communities in the southern parts of Namibia.

The training was held in Kalkrand, in the Hardap Region, where crop farmers often face several challenges in accessing training programmes. Ing-Anja Huppertz, the OCC Director, emphasised the value of organic farming. "The technologies used in this farming method are an alternative agricultural system that advocates the use of appropriate and affordable farming techniques in improving soil fertility," she said.

Little to no rainfall can result in poor yields and degraded pastures, a continuous problem faced by communities in the Kalkrand area. "It is important that crop farmers are educated about various methodologies because limited knowledge on soil fertility management and overexploitation leads to diminished resilience of the soil," CED Director, Godwin

Chisenga explained.

The workshop hosted 25 participants who are upcoming small-scale vegetable farmers. The trainees further learnt about sustainable ways to restore the natural fertility of degraded soil by making use of affordable local materials. Additionally, the workshop focused on a combination of agricultural practices and methods to help mitigate natural disasters in the sector, as a drought and flood rehabilitation strategy.

The topics that were addressed include: *the fundamentals of organic farming; crop rotation; intercropping; agroforestry; pest control; the identification of major land degradation problems; composite making; the identification of available indigenous technologies and their feasibility; raising awareness on organic farming technologies;*



Facilitator of the training, Dr Namu Musulwe (far right) addressing the trainees.

finding new alternative methods to improve soil fertility; cultivation; and the agro-ecosystem.

"The workshop also provided a platform for participants to discuss key initiatives among the many other problems facing the agricultural sector in diminishing good

agricultural land, and the need to intensify land use," Chisenga concluded.

All participants received training manuals and NUST Certificates of Attendance. Similar training sessions have been scheduled for Okakarara, Otjinene and Keetmanshoop, in the near future.