

Program Director, Mr Guillermo Delgado;

Mr Morné du Toit, Acting Vice-Chancellor of NUST;

Mr Robert Kahimise, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek;

Lecturers and Staff Members of both NUST and the City of Windhoek;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning!

Allow me, at the onset to extend an apology and warm greetings from Cllr Agatha Ashilelo, Chairperson of the Management Committee of the City of Windhoek, whose name correctly appears on the programme of this very important event, but due to equally important engagements, could not join us to address you in person. However, she gave me her words that her physical absence should not impede the successful hosting of this important event. She

Equally, this collaboration provides an excellent learning platform for our students, as they are provided with the much-needed opportunities to put their lecture room knowledge, into practice, thereby gaining real life experience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In today's world that is characterized by fast changing environments, these kinds of collaboration can be model in itself on how to tackle the common challenges of our times efficiently. The challenges can be tackled through joining hands to create sustainability, healthy, just societies; and protecting the rights of current and future generations.

As Council, we are therefore honoured, that this morning we are gathered here to formalise the relationship that was ongoing between our two institutions. The formalization of this collaborative relationship will indeed enable our two institutions to maximize the benefits that can be reaped through working together, to the benefits of the wider residents of Windhoek and Namibia at large.

is key to effective development of any nation. I am thus gratified that new developments of local partnership, that will ultimately benefit residents, as well as, the nation at large are emerging. Now is the time to harness the appetite for innovation and use of technology from the youth being the majority of the student population of NUST. These students will also be the future leaders, impacting progress in the research and development arena.

That said, **ladies and gentlemen**, this MOU is imperative to the City of Windhoek's strategic intent and strengthening organisational capacity. My humble plea is for all of us as partners to raise the bar of excellence, service delivery and community upliftment through demonstrated leadership and practical work.

Finally, **Program Director, Ladies and Gentlemen**,