

# **SPEECH ON THE OCASSION OF NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHINOLGY (NUST) STUDENTS AWARDS CEREMONY**

**26 APRIL 2016, NUST AUDITORIUM 1**

**BY**

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Professor Tjama Tjivikua- Vice-Chancellor; Senior Management Team, Faculty, distinguished recipients of awards, parents, guardians, friends and family members; distinguished invited guests, ladies and gentlemen. **Good evening!**

1. I am very pleased to have been invited here this evening to congratulate the top performers of last year and to wish them well. *Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Sir, I am deeply humbled by your invitation.*
2. **Ladies and gentlemen**, academic excellence is the cornerstone of any good university.
3. I have no doubt that the *Namibia University of Science and Technology* has similar aspirations of being a University of Excellence and this is a clarion call on its staff members and students alike to strive for the very best.
4. I am told, in a moment we shall appreciate that there are students at this very University who are willing to strive for the best, rather than for average performance.
5. Indeed, the students that we are honoring tonight have not accepted to be second best.
6. Tonight's recipients of merit wards along with many who have graduated before, are able to hold their own in any university in terms of further study.
7. Many alumni of this University have done extremely well and you, tonight's honorees, should actually aspire to do better than those who went before you.

8. **Distinguished Students**, tonight is a night of celebration. You are being celebrated for the excellent performance in your respective fields of study.
9. You all have made this evening possible, through persistence and hard work, through external or internal motivation and through your love of study.
10. I congratulate you warmly, on your exceptional achievements and above all, on your remarkable personal growth.
11. You all can feel proud of your achievements. Yes, absolutely, you all have reasons to celebrate.
12. Human life is simply too short, such that when it is your moment to shine, enjoy life responsibly while it last.
13. I also thank you in advance, for bringing credit to this beautiful institution and in the same vein, I invite you to pursue your studies and work so that you can fully exploit your excellent academic achievements.
14. I also congratulate your parents, guardians, families, spouses, lecturers and professors that have given you such a strong foundation to excel.
15. The winning of a merit award however, also places a special responsibility on all of you to go on and make the same kind of outstanding contribution in your lives that you have made in your studies.
16. You would agree with me that being bright is not the only ingredient of success in life.
17. To have exceptional success in life, you will need to have *high ethical standards, be able to work in teams, solve unexpected problems, work extremely hard and smartly, have the drive to excel, and most importantly be a life-long learner.*
18. **Distinguished ladies and gentlemen**, being able to relate to people meaningfully is especially important.
19. Many very smart people do not do so well in life as those who might be classified as moderately smart, but have excellent people skills.
20. If you are bright, as you all are, and can develop outstanding people skills, then obviously you can achieve a great deal in life.

21. I trust that your sleepless nights did not only make you “**the best of the best academically**” but has also successfully turned into a fine citizen with *a benevolent mind and caring heart*. These are the personal virtues our citizenry values most.
22. Elenor Roosevelt once said, “*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams*”.
23. **Dear honorees**, as you continue the journey of life, appreciate the beauty of your dreams to book your place into the future.
24. I have no doubt that every one of you will excel in your future roles and contribute to the future wellbeing of society, our nation and the world at large.
25. But, do always bear in mind that the key to success in life is not to get ahead of people, but to get ahead of ourselves.
26. As I conclude, I would to leave you with Elizabeth Myers Five W’s of life;
- “*Who you are, is what makes you special. Do not change for anyone.*
  - *What lies ahead will always be a mystery. Do not be afraid to explore.*
  - *When life pushes you over, push back harder.*
  - *Where there are choices to make, make the one you won’t regret.*
  - *Why things happen will never be certain. Take it in stride and move forward.*”
27. **Distinguished Students**, have your priority straight, and the rest of your life will follow that trajectory.

**Thank you for your hard work, thank you for your perseverance and thank you for your commitment. I wish you all continued success!**