



VOTE OF THANKS

BY

TJAMA TJIVIKUA

VICE CHANCELLOR

ON

THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF

HIS EXCELLENCY SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE,

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

TO THE

NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NUST)

ON

17 JUNE 2016

AT

10:40

AT

AUDITORIUM 1, NUST

NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WINDHOEK

Your Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India

Honourable Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation

Other Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament

Members of the His Excellency's Delegation and the Indian High Commission in Namibia

Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps

The Distinguished Academic Community

Respected Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a deep honour and privilege for me to host and also to extend a vote of thanks on this historic moment of the State Visit of His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee to the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) to address the Namibia Academic Community.

The 17th of June 2016 is indeed a memorable day in the history of our young and newly renamed institution, the Namibia University of Science and Technology, NUST. Your Excellency, this visit is historic, for it is the second visit by the Head of State of India to Namibia, following that of President Shankar Dayel Sharma in 1995.

The ties that bind India and Namibia are deep and strong and date back to our pre-independence years when India was one of the first countries to raise its voice at the United Nations for the independence of Namibia. This was long before it became a global call for our independence, and is rooted in India's quest for her own independence, equality and justice.

Thus your visit, Your Excellency, marks the strengthening of the longstanding bond between our nations, thus marking a determination to move from engagement for political liberation to promoting a joint development agenda. NUST is, therefore, privileged, grateful and proud that it was chosen to host you, Your Excellency, during your State Visit that seeks to further strengthen the bilateral ties and give impetus to our socio-economic and technological development. In this vein, the funding from the Indian government to establish the Centre of Excellence in IT at this University goes a long way toward that goal. We are deeply appreciative of this magnificent gift.

On behalf of the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, the NUST community and the entire higher education sector, I wish to convey our deep regards and heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency for having taken time to dialogue with us. It is not often that Presidents in their diplomatic visits find space to interact with universities. In many ways, this speaks to how you have been described with superlative accolades such as - polished diplomat and journalist; the most versatile minister in India, having served in four major ministries; a highly committed and worker par

excellence; an avid reader and prolific author; and powerful orator, scholar and teacher. These qualities and experience came through this morning in your heartfelt message.

In higher education, we are excited by your dedication to education and capacity building because they are central to all development endeavours. We are deeply grateful for the wisdom and thoughtfulness that you so kindly shared with us in your inspirational address. We thank you for so generously sharing your rich experiences and invaluable wisdom. And so we wish you and your delegation a safe and pleasant trip back home.

We are extremely grateful to the Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, for welcoming the HE Shri Pranab Mukherjee at this important occasion. We are indeed mindful of your deep interest, commitment and continued support to higher education to further its internationalisation programme. We have no doubt that collaboration between our respective institutions and counterparts in India will, therefore, grow from strength to strength.

Also, I would like to place on record my deep appreciation to the senior colleagues from our sister institutions who joined us this morning, partners of the University in the ICT sector, the academic staff of the different institutions, and the Indian community in Namibia. Thank you for being part of this historic occasion.

My special and hearty thanks go to the staff from the Protocol and Security divisions of our Government and staff of the High Commission of India in Namibia for the commendable way they cooperated with the NUST personnel in ensuring that this important occasion is a great success. And surely, I would also like to thank the notable members of the media - from India and Namibia - for their interest in covering this event.

Lastly, Your Excellency, I wish you and your family and the people of India the very best in your quest for a peaceful, equitable and just world.

I thank you all for your attendance and wish you a wonderful day!

Please remain seated until there are further instructions from Dr Marius Kudumo, who will direct us henceforth.

- Ends.