Celebrating Cultural Diversity As One

The Official Opening of the Festival, was attended by thousands of students, staff, as well as members of the public. Her Excellency Dr Jana Hybášková, the European Union Ambassador to Namibia, accompanied by several ambassadors and high commissioners of EU member states, delivered the keynote address. She spoke highly of research that NUST is currently heading and that is funded by the European Union. Hybášková singled out a project where tablet computers will be designed for Himba communities. “We want indigenous communities to have the means of preserving their traditions and to tell their own stories without them being destroyed through interpretation,” she said.

Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the NUST Vice-Chancellor said: “We are very mindful of the potential inherent in promoting diversity, when enrolling students or recruiting staff, because as visionaries we always require new thinking and we also value good connections to elevate our quest to become a world-class university.” Those connections are evident everywhere and this event signifies the veritable explosion of colour among your various cultural displays, including the food, dress outfits, sports and musical performances and much more.”

NUST has enrolled nearly 600 students from the SADC region, and more than a hundred students from other countries, among them Denmark, Finland, India, Malaysia, The Philippines, South Korea, Switzerland and the United States of America. The University’s population currently stands at approximately 12 000 students. Furthermore, local students represent a multitude of ethnic backgrounds, thus truly showing the cultural diversity on campus.

An International Cuisine Day was held, as well as the Mr and Miss NUST Pageant. Insoy Ausga and Elizabeth Mansanga won the coveted titles, respectively.