



HON. DR BECKY, R.K NDJOZE-OJO

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: DEPUTY MINISTER OF
HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND
INNOVATION**

**AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 2013 & 2014 NAMIBIA
STATISTICAL YEARBOOKS;
AND THE 2016/17 NATIONAL GRADUATE
SURVEY**

**VENUE: PROTEA HOTEL FÜRSTENHOFF
DATE: 28 OCTOBER 2016
TIME: 9H00**

Director of Ceremonies
Chairperson of NCHE and Members of the
Council present
Vice Chancellors of Universities
Representatives of Private Higher Education
Institutions
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Representatives of National Planning
Commission (NPC)
Representatives of the Ministry of Labour
Ministry, Industrial Relations and
Employment Creation, and other Ministries
and Agencies
Representatives of Public Enterprises
Students Representatives (NANSO and SRCs
of Universities)
Invited Guests
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning.

I have been delegated by the Hon. Minister, Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi to represent her. It gives me great pleasure to address you this morning. This event is marking the launch of the commencement of the **National Graduate Survey (NGS)** and the first ever **Namibia Higher Education Statistical Yearbook (NHESY)**.

The importance of statistics and its significance cannot be over emphasized. Statistics are central for planning as budgets are nexus for planning. Higher education statistics therefore, is not an end in itself but a means to an end of planning better to numbers; to purposes; and to budgets.

Through this launch, we in Higher Education sub-sector are making our needed contribution to statistical data base. In so doing, we shall be linking and thereby ensuring funding for training and skills development to national priorities; Ensuring that strategic planning in training institutions is responsive to labour market shortage; we shall encourage and promote partnerships between training institutions and industry. The identification and implementation on of various strategies to fast-track the development of new education and training programmes to meet identified occupational shortage is crucial, and this statistical data shall go a long way to assist.

Up until 2012, information on the supply of qualified human resources from higher education institutions have been scattered. Each institution was keeping its own incomplete database. Hence, the Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) was developed and designed to

collect, process and disseminate the higher education statistics. Today, we are launching the first two publications of the **Namibia Higher Education Statistical Yearbook (NHESY)** for the academic year 2013 and 2014.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen we have a challenge at our hands and all hands should be on deck to work extremely hard to ensure that our statistics are not belated but produced as soon as it is practicable if we are to rise up to these commitments. We need to monitor on annual basis whether the production of human resources skills is in tandem with the development priorities; we need to evaluate on short-medium and long-term basis to establish whether the skills produced are indeed contributing to development; and where gaps persist, we must take the necessary actions to address them.

HEMIS and by extension NHESY are in essence the monitoring tools for the implementation of the National Human Resources Plan as they provide regular data, useful for accessing the extent to which the human resources needs identified in the plan are being met on annual basis. I therefore, invite the development planners; policymakers, researchers and others to utilise these statistics to do relevant research to help find solutions to some of the problems in the Higher Education sector.

I am reliably informed that these publications have been the result of a collaborative effort between the public and private institutions working through the Namibia Council for Higher Education (NCHE). The central processing of the data at NCHE

is to assure quality, harmonisation and standardisation of information so that employers when searching for graduates to fill jobs, have a precise idea of human resources produced in the country.

Graduate Surveys do not only inform institutions' strategic plans, but also should guide policy makers, planners, parents and students in their decision-making processes. Through Tracer Studies, information regarding graduates' employment and continuing study, job search behaviour, previous education history and other characteristics of former students are collected. Results from **Graduate Surveys** provide valuable insights for higher education policy makers, workforce planners and researchers, academics and administrators, and, of course, the graduates themselves. Career advisors too ought to integrate these findings into their career counselling practices which in turn assist prospective students to make informed decision course selections and career choices.

In summary, the main purposes of Graduate Survey are:

- To tell the whereabouts of graduates some time after the awards of the degrees;
- To show some features of the career "success" of graduates;
- To provide information on which graduates from which institutions of higher education fare better than others;
- To evaluate external efficiency of higher education programmes;
- To provide input to career guidance and marketing for Alumni offices.

Several tracer studies were done and useful results to inform future researchers were obtained. The first was done in 2010/11 and the other in 2013/14.

The 2016/17 National Graduate Study, targeting the persons who completed their studies in 2012 and 2013 will soon be undertaken and all mechanisms are in place to that effect.

Today, 28 October 2016, marks the official commencement of the study. All systems are in place and the universities are ready to start with data collection. Information about the study can be found in the media, on posters at public places as well as on the universities' websites.

Ladies and Gentlemen in conclusion it is true that statistics are important. These **Statistical Yearbooks** and the **Graduate Survey** I am about to launch, form part of our Communication Strategy to provide end users, parents, students and employers, with the necessary information on the outcome of the education and training and we at the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation stand ready to work on improving HEMIS.

I now have the pleasure to launch the **2013 and 2014 Namibia Statistical Yearbooks** and to declare the **2016/17 National Graduate Survey** as officially commenced.

I thank you for your kind attention.