

# **The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)**

**The Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Prof. Joyce Ndalichako at NM-AIST during the official Launching of AfDB Capacity Building Project.**



Group photo during the Official Launching of NM-AIST Capacity Building Project funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) on March 31, 2017. In the front row among others are: The Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Prof. Joyce Ndalichako (Centre), the Chairman of the Council of NM-AIST Prof. David Mwakyusa (3<sup>rd</sup> left), AfDB Country Representative Mr. Khamis Simba (3<sup>rd</sup> Right) and NM-AIST Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Karoli Njau (2<sup>nd</sup> Left)

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology of Tanzania (MEST) Hon. Prof. Joyce Ndalichako visited NM-AIST during the Official Launching of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Capacity Building Project to NM-AIST worth Tsh. 8.29 Billion. Her appearance was historic not only for the launching of the project, but also her first time visit to the Institution.

Enthusiastically, Prof. Ndalichako thanked the management for the invitation to officiate the project and be part of this momentous event. She expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the AfDB support of the NM-AIST.

*“The country’s current industrialization agenda which is propagated by the President John Magufuli will be sustainable if only investment in science and technology is seriously implemented. We therefore need to appreciate and utilize such scholarships for they are a golden chance to excel”.* She said



The Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Tanzania and the Guest of honor of the AfDB\_NM-AIST Capacity Building Project, delivering her speech

Prof. Ndalichako emphasized that, with the budget deficits, the government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, cannot afford to cover the demand for scholarships to students, therefore, she calls for more development partners to consider supporting education in Tanzania. She therefore urged the NM-AIST management and staff members to ensure that the fund is used wisely for the intended purpose.

The minister appreciated the support shown by the AfDB for supporting the NM-AIST and the country in general.

*“What a splendid support that has come to NM-AIST in such a hard time in organizing for student scholarships”.* She said

She assured the Country Representative of AfDB of total support from the government of Tanzania to work hand in hand with the Management of NM-AIST in reaching the goals and smooth operation of the project .to make sure that the project runs smoothly.

She was sad to hear that some of the admitted students in the AfDB-NM-AIST capacity building Project are not in position to attend their studies simply because their employers has refused to issue them release letters, some of them has even their salaries withheld. She ordered that, all employers of particular beneficiaries of the AfDB project should issue release letters as soon as possible. She added that the government of Tanzania cannot tolerate such behaviors and therefore if the employers will not respond positively, cohesive means will be applied upon them. Following this directive, Professor Ndalichako ordered the management of NM-AIST to prepare a list of the students facing this challenge and react to their employers immediately

Professor Ndalichako congratulated the management of NM-AIST for their hard work in fulfilling their duties and seeking support from various donors and development partners. She however urged them to invest more advertising its activities.

During her interviews with the press, Hon. Prof. Ndalichako commended on a number of research and innovation activities which are taking place within NM-AIST including the banana propagation farm, a collaborative project between NM-AIST and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) which covers about 12 acres, the state of the art and well-equipped laboratory



which demonstrates a wide range in performing various researches, the Contracted west land system which purifies waste water for re-use and the incubation center. She also got a chance to listen a prospect incubate of the NM-AIST'S Incubation Centre who is doing his PhD in food and nutrition sciences and wishes to commercialize his nutritious food packages. She promised to support his project in order to accomplish his dream of serving the community.

The Minister's speech was preceded by the speech of the Chairman of the council of NM-AIST, Prof. David Mwakyusa, who among other things, expressed the joy of NM-AIST community to the Minister to NM-AIST, and thanked her for accepting the invitation despite her tight schedule.. He also thanked the AfDB and the East African Community for extending the grand to NM-AIST.

*“Hon. Minister, this is the high time for intervention with AfDB, because scholarships availability has been the measure stumbling block for NM-AIST to realize its full potential for enrolment of students, because in the 2014, only 7 students were enrolled after the initial support of government through COSTEC came to the end”.* Said Prof. David Mwakyusa.



The Chairman of the Council of NM-AIST, Prof. David Mwakyusa, delivering his speech to the Guest of Honor Prof. Joyce Ndalichako and the audiences

Prof. Mwakyusa said after facing difficulties in

scholarships, the management of NM-AIST engaged the government, local and international agencies and finally managed to secure grants for two World Bank funded African Centre's of Excellency, namely CREATES and WISE-FUTURES which totals to 12 mil. USD to support 208 Master's and 110 PhD students within five years of its operation, The Indian Government which provided modern facilities for ICT Centre, The Belgian Government through the VLIR-OUS Project which supported researches and some laboratory equipment and the recent African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) which has been supporting the Institution in various areas of capacity building and laboratory equipment, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) which supported the multinational and multi institutional Programme for Enhancing the Health and Productivity of Livestock (PEHPL) through the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and Department of State (USA) Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) which has supported the lab equipment and the Bush meet Project, which is intended to explore the impact of bush meet consumption, the project was secured through Penn State University.

*“The AfDB grant is meant for capacity building, to cover laboratory equipment and consumables, equipment and furniture for business incubator facility, intellectual property and technology transfer office, incubator startups, training and technology cum business incubation and study scholarships for 66 Master's and 30 PhD. The first cohort of the project has enrolled 18 PhD and 33 Msc with a good gender proportion of 51% female students and 49% male students as one of the requirements of the project”.* He said

The AfDB country representative Mr. Khamis Simba thanked the Tanzania Government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for understating the need to educate the young African young generation who will become future scientists of the African Continent

Mr. Khamis said that the AfDB Capacity Building project is the regional body which includes international organizations and institutions such as the East African Community (EAC) and through the Economic Community

of West African States (ECOWAS) which bears a linking role between AfDB and a network of African Institutions of Science and technology (AISTs). Including the NM-AIST, Arusha, African University of Science and Technology (AUST) of Abuja Nigeria, and International Institute for Water and Environment (2Ie) of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Over all other institutions NM-AIST is the first to take off the project.



**The Country Representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to Tanzania, Mr. Khamis Simba, delivering his speech.**

Proudly, he mentioned that among all the Institutions which falls under this AfDB capacity building project, the NM-AIST is the first to take off. This is encouraging and makes AfDB trust and expect more from NM-AIST and the government of Tanzania hoping that the project will be a success. He assured the Minister about the availability of funding if the project will come up with sound deliverables.

Earlier, the NM-AIST Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Karoli Njau presented the NM-AIST overview which summarized the genesis, the current Institutional status, the challenges and the way forward.

The AfDB grant aimed at enhancing laboratories, incubation center, intellectual property, technology transfer and study scholarships for five years. A total number of 96 students will benefit from the project; including 30 are PhD and 66 Masters. The first cohort of the project was enrolled February this year comprising of 33 Msc. And 18 PhD students



The Ag. Vice Chancellor of NM-AIST, Prof. Karoli Njau presenting an overview of NM-AIST during the AfDB\_NM-AIST official opening Ceremony.