

REMARKS BY PROF. FREDNARD GIDEON, PVC: AA, DURING THE DONATION HANDOVER BY DEBMARINE NAMIBIA TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA ON 4 APRIL 2018, WINDHOEK

Mr. Otto Shikongo, Managing Director of Debmarine Namibia
Mr. Ueritjiua Kauaria, Deputy Permanent Secretary: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.
Prof. Osmund Mwandemele, Coordinating Director for the Center for Mining and Metallurgical Research and Training
Mrs. Lorna Mbwale, Director of UNAM Foundation
Dr. Ndeyapo Nickanor, Dean of the Faculty of Science
Dr. Simon Angombe, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Prof. John Mfune, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences
All esteemed colleagues from Debmarine Namibia and the University of Namibia

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Lazarus Hangula, I wish to convey our warm greetings to Debmarine Management and to sincerely thank Debmarine for the commitment to support UNAM. What we are witnessing today is truly partnership between a higher education institution and industry. The University of Namibia would like to sincerely thank Debmarine Namibia for the generous support by way of;

- **Donating N\$250,000 IN SUPPORT OF (1) THE Centre For Mining and Metallurgical Research and Training; and(2) The School of Marine Engineering and Maritime Studies; and**
- **Donating samples of Benthic Macrofauna to the UNAMs Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences**

The two institutions, that is, the Centre for Mining and Metallurgical Research and Training, and the School of Marine Engineering and Maritime Studies, are important because Mining contributes close to 25% to the nation's income earnings and contributes about 11.9% to the nation's GDP, while the fisheries sector contributes more than 15%. The two sectors' are also contributing to the economy directly or indirectly through the creation of thousands of jobs;

Government's NDP5 has recognised the importance of both Mining and the Blue economy as major role players in the socioeconomic development and growth of Namibia especially if Namibia had the capacity to add value to its minerals most of which are exported raw; and capacity to harvest and utilize marine and coastal resources. In addition, our harbours (Walvis Bay and Luderitz) are projected to play a very great role in the near future as logistics hubs serving the SADC region especially the landlocked countries.

This will only succeed or be possible if accompanied with massive human resource capacity building through skills development and upgrading.

1. Why the Need to Involve Stakeholders

The success of these two initiatives will depend on forging very strong and dependable partnerships with key stakeholders, not only the relevant government ministries, but more importantly, the Mining sector, Fishing and Maritime related industries, the NTA, Chamber of Mines, and most importantly our stakeholder Debmarine. We also have partner universities from Germany, Finland, Japan, Norway, the UK, Spain and China, which are fully committed to work with UNAM to make sure that UNAM and indeed Namibia succeeds. Recently I learned that the University of Southampton in the UK which has agreed to assist UNAM in the successful development of the School of Marine Engineering and Maritime Studies is also an important partner of Debmarine!

We believe that education and training must be geared towards addressing **real and not perceived**, human resource development needs of the relevant sectors to be served by the two individual institutions, while also addressing other pressing challenges through research and development and innovation.

Coordinated efforts were made to establish two **Steering Committees one for each project**, which draw their membership from various stakeholders, that is, from Government Ministries, the Industry, NTA, etc. I am very pleased to say that Debmarine is fully represented in both Steering Committees.

2. Resource Mobilisation for the Projects

Projects of this nature require a lot of capital and human resource investments and thus resource mobilisation from all possible sources, whether from the government or industry,

becomes very critical. The University of Namibia is very grateful for the funding support provided by Debmarine. The funding has enabled UNAM to undertake needs analysis/feasibility studies for both projects in order to determine priority academic and research areas which would address the real and not perceived human resource development needs for our country. The reports of the needs analysis for both projects will be presented during stakeholder workshops which are scheduled to take place in May this year. This would allow stakeholders to participate with confidence in shaping the future of these two very important national institutions.

3. For the Benthic Macrofauna donated to academic departments of the university

Ladies and gentlemen, capacity building through teaching and research takes a lion's share of our time and resources at UNAM. We take seriously the need to engage our stakeholders and partners in education to ensure that our curricula address the needs and challenges of our country. We therefore make all efforts to seek partnership with our stakeholders, to facilitate capacity building through joint research, teaching as well as placement of our students for internship.

I have been informed that the Department of Biological Sciences is engaged in discussions with Debmarine Namibia to establish areas of agreement and collaboration in capacity building through research for both academic staff and students. I am pleased that Debmarine has taken the first big step in these on-going discussions by donating samples of benthic macrofauna from benthic communities of Atlantic 1 Mining Licence Area (ML47), which we will receive this morning at this event.

In Conclusion, let me once again on behalf of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Lazarus Hangula, most sincerely thank Debmarine for the funding, and UNAM looks forward to very long term sustained partnership and friendship for many years to come.

I THANK YOU