

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Inaugurates the Refurbished Rössing Foundation Ondangwa Centre and Science Exhibition & Technology Hub

24 June 2026, Ondangwa, Namibia – The Rössing Foundation officially inaugurated its upgraded

Ondangwa Centre, now known as the Ondangwa Multipurpose Digital Centre, in a ceremony officiated by the of the Republic of Namibia, Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

The event marked three major milestones, the completion of a N\$37.18 million transformation of the Ondangwa Centre, funded by Rössing Uranium Limited, into a modern digital and conferencing hub. Secondly, the receipt of 73 interactive science models valued at N\$6.05 million, donated by the China Foundation for Development of Science and Technology (CFDST). Finally, the official naming of the Multipurpose Centre as the Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Science Exhibition Hall in recognition of the President's passion for the advancement of education, in particular science and technology.

The facility was officially inaugurated by President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in the presence of regional and government leaders, traditional authorities, development partners, educators, learners, and community members from across the country.

Established in 1978, the Rössing Foundation has spent just under five decades investing in Namibia's human capital through education, skills development, rural empowerment, livelihoods support, and community development initiatives. Throughout its history, the Foundation has remained committed to creating opportunities that enable individuals and communities to realise their potential and contribute meaningfully to national development.

The N\$37million centre was refurbished through a hefty donation by Rössing Uranium Mine as it celebrates its 50th anniversary 26 June 2026. The launch of the refurbished Ondangwa Centre and Science Exhibition & Technology Hub represents the next chapter in that journey. The facility has been designed to serve as a regional hub for science education, innovation, technology engagement, skills development, and community learning, providing young Namibians with opportunities to explore, discover, and prepare for a rapidly evolving world and fill a concerning gap in the MICE space in the Namibian landscape and the Northern region in particular. The facility, decked with state of the art boardrooms, conferencing halls is open for commercial and public reservation and bookings.

Delivering the keynote address, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah highlighted the critical role of education, science, technology, and innovation in shaping Namibia's future "At every stage of human development, science has played a great role, knowingly or unknowingly. Therefore, in the world of high technology, science and scientific knowledge make it possible for us to develop new technologies, solve practical problems, and make informed decisions. The establishment of this Science Centre is therefore highly appreciated," she stated.

TRUSTEES

GN Sekandi (Chairperson), CG Bohitile (Vice Chairperson), J Coetzee, EW Bohn, J Zhang, L Davies, H Kamenye and M Huang, J Kasuto
C Movirongo (CEO)

Additionally, Her Excellency emphasized the importance of investing in young people "This Centre has come at a time when our government has moved to another level in its programs for youth development and empowerment, enabling young people to lead our national development agenda towards prosperity. It is a fact that every nation that aspires to prosperity must invest in its people. It must invest in education, science, technology, and innovation. Above all, it must create opportunities for young people to realize their full potential," she added.

Subsequently, the Governor of the Oshana Region, Hon. Hofni lipinge, welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the significance of the Centre to the region "The refurbishment of this Centre and the establishment of a modern Science Exhibition and Technology Hub represent a significant investment in the future of northern Namibia. As a region, Oshana remains committed to creating opportunities for our youth. We recognize that education, science, technology, and innovation are no longer optional; they are essential pillars for economic growth, job creation, industrial development, and national competitiveness. This Centre therefore arrives at the right time, as our country advances towards a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy," he noted.

Furthermore, the Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Namibia, Shen Jian, reaffirmed China's commitment to supporting Namibia's development "Namibia has made great strides in its national social and economic development. Like many foreign observers, I firmly believe that Namibia will witness rapid development across all sectors in the coming five to ten years. China will continue to be a major development partner for Namibia, and we stand ready to provide even greater support to our Namibian friends in areas of need," he noted.

Also speaking at the event Johan Coetzee, Managing Director of Rössing Uranium, highlighted the importance of investing in technology and innovation "We believe that digital literacy, scientific curiosity, and technological innovation are fundamental drivers of economic growth and social progress. By investing in these areas, we are helping young people participate meaningfully in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the knowledge economy of the future," he stated.

JIN Yinan, Deputy Secretary of the Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in China, highlighted the organization's commitment to advancing science and technology "FDSTC has always been committed to enhancing public scientific literacy, nurturing scientific talent, supporting the commercialization of technological innovation, and fostering cultural and scientific exchanges. Through our network of national scientific societies, local science associations, grassroots science organizations, international non-governmental science bodies, state-owned enterprises, listed companies, investment institutions, and science and technology organizations worldwide, FDSTC remains committed to global technological progress and the sustainable development of humanity," she emphasized.

In the same light, ZHANG Tao, President of the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), spoke on the significance of the partnership "This project represents not only CNNC's commitment to social responsibility but also serves as a vivid example of how China and Namibia are building a shared future through education and youth

TRUSTEES

GN Sekandi (Chairperson), CG Bohitile (Vice Chairperson), J Coetzee, EW Bohn, J Zhang, L Davies, H Kamenye and M Huang, J Kasuto
C Movirongo (CEO)

engagement. As a leader in China's nuclear industry, CNNC is actively implementing the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping and promoting the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind," he noted.

Chairperson of the Rössing Foundation Board, Gida Nakazibwe Sekandi, accepted the donations on behalf of the board, reflecting on the Foundation's longstanding mission "For the Rössing Foundation, this Centre represents the very essence of our mission. For over four decades, the Foundation has worked alongside communities across Namibia to advance education, capacity building, and sustainable development. We have always believed that lasting progress is achieved not through charity alone, but through creating opportunities that empower people to improve their own lives and contribute meaningfully to their communities," she remarked.

Correspondingly, Jason Kasuto a Rössing Foundation board member and Managing Director of Monasa Advisories and Associates highlighted the vision for the exhibition hall "The Rössing Foundation carries a vision for this place to become a space where children are not only introduced to science, but are able to experience it in a practical and meaningful way. Through interactive learning and discovery, the aim is to bring science closer to young people, spark curiosity, and ensure that Namibian youth are positioned at the forefront of science and innovation, ready to engage with opportunities both locally and globally," he stated.

As the Rössing Foundation approaches five decades of service, the Ondangwa Multipurpose Digital Centre stand as symbols of renewal, partnership, and a shared commitment to building a more knowledgeable, innovative, and prosperous Namibia.

ENDS.

The Rössing Foundation is established in 1978, evolving as a recognized beacon of corporate social investment and welfare organization in Namibia. The Rössing Foundation is developing and empowering identified communities with knowledge, skills, and attitude to achieve self-reliance through education, training, innovation, enterprise development and contributes to nation building.

Issued by:
The Rössing Foundation
Laina Hakweenda
Manager: Public Relations
Laina.Hakweenda@rf.org.na
+264811 686322

TRUSTEES

GN Sekandi (Chairperson), CG Bohitile (Vice Chairperson), J Coetzee, EW Bohn, J Zhang, L Davies, H Kamenye and M Huang, J Kasuto
C Movirongo (CEO)