

Minister abandons concern over Nust appointment

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by **Sakeus likela**



Higher education minister Itah Kandjii-Murangi says she will not take any further steps to overturn the appointment of Eroid Naomab as the new vice chancellor of the Namibia University of Science and Technology, despite expressing concern about the process followed to appoint him.

Before Naomab's appointment was confirmed on Friday evening, Kandjii-Murangi had written to Nust council chairperson Frolette Nakusera, saying the decision to appoint Naomab through a vote rather than following the outcome of the interview and assessment processes was “totally out of line and at odds with the practices of good governance”.

Despite this concern, the Nust council went ahead to confirm Naomab as Nust's vice chancellor, although there were “reservations” that “his results on four of the five capabilities meet the requirements at the minimum level”.

Naomab came second in the interview process, with Frednard Gideon recommended for the position by the committee which conducted the recruitment process.

The Namibian asked the minister on Saturday if she would follow up on her letter to nullify the appointment.

She said she did not see the need to follow up on anything as the council gave an adequate explanation of its choice of Naomab.

“This is a council appointment. I don't know why I am being bothered with this. The explanation that I was given is in line with the processes determined [for recruitment]. If I comment, people would say I interfered. Just leave me alone,” Kandjii-Murangi said before abruptly ending the phone call.

There are allegations that Naomab's appointment was politically influenced.

The Namibian was told that the higher education minister was involved in a plot to appoint Naomab “by any means necessary”.

Kandjii-Murangi however denied that she had influence in Naomab's appointment.

She said if it was the case, she would have not expressed concerns over allegations that the Nust council disregarded the outcome of various assessments to favour its preferred candidate.