

Students in need receive mobile data carriers

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Allgemeine Zeitung NAMIBIA

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JAHRE
1916-2016



The Minister for Higher Education, Itah Kandjii-Murangi (center), officially handed over mobile data carriers to student representatives of the NUST yesterday. Photo: Steffi Balzar

Windhoek (sb) - The Student Financing Fund (NSFAF) has started issuing mobile data carriers to students in need. This was announced by the managing director of the NSFAF, Kennedy Kandume, yesterday in Windhoek at the official handover at the Namibian University of Technology (NUST). The initiative, which is being carried out as part of the COVID-19 university support for Namibian students, is intended to give students affordable access to mobile data. Part of the project is also the procurement of laptops, which should take place in November, as well as upgrading the technology of the public universities (AZ reported).

"The acquisition of the data carriers cost 19.3 million Namibian dollars," said Kandume. By Friday, 2000 NUST students had already received their data carriers. According to Kandume, NSFAF has ordered 28000 of these from the telecommunications provider Telecom, which students nationwide should receive after successful online applications. "We set up a database and put every student in the country who are enrolled in an official higher education institution into it," said Kandume. This makes fraud impossible, as only registered students can apply for the devices.

"In addition, we have upgraded the technical systems of the NUST so that the university

can meet the requirements of distance learning," said the NSFAP managing director. This process cost 2.3 million N \$ and will soon also take place at the Namibian University (UNAM). The Minister for Higher Education, Itah Kandjii-Murangi, encouraged the recipients of the mobile data carriers "to use them carefully and to use them appropriately". According to the minister, this initiative will initially be carried out once. "In the future, however, a laptop and access to mobile data should always be part of the NSFAP support for freshmen to give them the best possible start to their studies," says Kandjii-Murangi.