

UNAM professor threatens NUST with lawsuit over top job

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November 17, 2020



Staff Reporter

A PROFESSOR at the University of Namibia, Frednand Gideon, yesterday through his lawyers threatened to take legal action against NUST for recruiting another candidate for the Vice Chancellor position even after it emerged that he was the overall best performer during the recruitment process.

The university announced the appointment of Dr. Erol Naomab on Friday afternoon.

NUST has been without a permanent Vice Chancellor since the retirement of Tjama Tjivikua in 2018.

Frednand and Naomab were shortlisted for the position and last week publicly presented their presentations.



ACADEMIC: Professor Frednand Gideon threatens to take legal action against NUST. Photo: Contributed

Frednand's lawyer, Sisa Namandje, however, in a letter addressed to the NUST Board Chairperson, Florette Nakusera, sought an unequivocal undertaking that the decision will not be implemented pending an application in the high court in which NUST's decision will be reviewed.

“Should you not give the undertaking above by Tuesday, 17 November 2020, we regret to inform you that in such a case our client will approach the high court on an interim basis for interim relief which application will be heard on or about 9 December 2020,” the letter reads.

Naomab is currently the Assistant Pro-Vice Chancellor at the Southern Campus and Frednand is the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Unam's main campus in Windhoek.

In a leaked selection report, Frednand is recommended for the role.

“The results on the competency potential indicate a desirable competency level to be effective in the role. His results on all five core capabilities meet the requirements as moderate to high level. His reasoning ability, both critical and general are in line with his peers,” the report reads about Frednand.

“Dr. Naomab’s performance is ranked as moderate with some limitations. Dr Erol is recommended for the role with reservation. His results on all four of the five capabilities meet the requirements at the minimum level,” the report reads about Naomab.