

Media Release

27 September 2024

For immediate release:

"Living in a High-Tech World: Should We Be Concerned?"

The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation and the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement are thrilled to announce the launch of National Science Week tomorrow (28 September 2024) at the Central University of Technology in Bloemfontein. The Minister of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof Blade Nzimande will deliver the keynote address on the responsible use of technology for societal benefit.

National Science Week will run from 30 September to 5 October 2024. This year's theme, "Living in a High-Tech World: Should We Be Concerned?", invites the public to engage in critical conversations on the implications of emerging technologies in our everyday lives.

As we step further into the era of artificial intelligence, big data, and automation, National Science Week 2024 will explore the opportunities and challenges these innovations present. Questions will focus on whether we should fully embrace these technologies or approach them with caution. The week will also examine ethical and societal implications, inviting public reflection and discourse.

National Science Week is an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and innovation that brings together thousands of students and members of the public for workshops, science exhibitions and lectures. This year's activities will be held around the country in universities, schools, science centres and public facilities.

The Central University of Technology will be a hive of activity with exhibitions, science demonstrations and workshops demonstrating the importance of science in our daily lives. The National Science Week launch event is projected to attract approximately 3 000 people, including learners, exhibitors, students and community members from across the province.

Among the exciting highlights for the day is a demonstration by Munei Netsharotha, a learner from Tshivhase Secondary School in Limpopo, who will showcase his project that uses hydrogen technology in a vehicle.

National Science Week, which forms part of the Department of Science and Innovation's science engagement strategy, also encourages learners to pursue careers in STEMI.

The media are invited to the NSW launch as follows:

Date: Saturday, 28 September 2024

Time: 09:00 to 13:30

Venue: Central University of Technology (CUT), Bloemfontein, Free State

Media Contact Information:

Zamuxolo Matiwana – zamuxolo@saasta.ac.za

Michael Ellis – 072 287 7496, mb.ellis@saasta.nrf.ac.za

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About the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA):
SAASTA is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF) with the mandate to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering and technology in South Africa. SAASTA’s contribution to the NRF’s vision of “Research for a Better Society” through strengthening the science and society interface. The organisations aims to be the leading science advancement agency in the country by promoting and communicating the value and impact of science, technology and innovation in a dynamic knowledge economy. It also intends to contribute significantly towards building a science, engineering and technology (SET) human resource base. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF please visit www.saasta.ac.za

About the National Research Foundation (NRF):

The National Research Foundation (NRF) was established on 1 April 1999 as an independent statutory body in accordance with the National Research Foundation Act. The NRF is a key public entity responsible for supporting the development of human resources for research and innovation in all fields of science and technology. The organisation is one of the major players in educating and training a new generation of scientists able to deal with South African and African needs. The organisation encourages public awareness and appreciation of science, engineering and technology, and facilitates dialogue between science and society. Its vision is to contribute to a prosperous South Africa based on a knowledge economy. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF please visit www.nrf.ac.za