

## Deputy Minister (DSI) Buti Manamela visits iThemba LABS and addresses students attending Training program



The Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, (DSI) Mr Buti Manamela visited [iThemba LABS](#) at Faure in the Western Cape in March 2020 as part of his self-orientation to familiarize himself with the work of the research facilities and entities across the country that are currently under his departmental line of sight.

iThemba LABS is a national research facility administered by the National Research Foundation (NRF), under the purview of the DSI.

Fortuitously, the Deputy Minister's visit to iThemba LABS also coincided with the first day of SPAMS (Spectrum Presentation, Analysis, Manipulation and Simulation) workshop organized under SAINTS. The SPAMS workshop is attended by over 20 post-graduate students drawn from a number of South African Universities incl University of the Western Cape. Deputy Minister Manamela got an opportunity during the visit to meet and briefly interact with the students attending the SPAMS workshop. *"Our country is privileged to count as future leaders young people like you who are pursuing technical fields of study. We at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation shall continue to use all means at our disposal to empower the youth; and there is no other form of empowerment better than education.."*, said Deputy Minister Manamela, addressing about 25 students attending the Spectrum Presentation, Analysis, Manipulation and Simulation workshop organized by **Prof Richard Newman** SAINTS Co-Ordinator at iThemba LABS.

- There were 3 PhD Students from UWC namely:
- Lumkile Msebi, Cebo Ngwetsheni and Monushia Zimri
- Their Supervisors are Prof Nico Orce and Prof Leslie Petrik

**SAINTS** (Southern African Institute for Nuclear Technology and Sciences) is another iThemba LABS initiative, and one of the four pillars of iThemba LABS.

The Deputy Minister's visit comes at a time when iThemba LABS has recently secured government support to finance its strategic flagship project, **SAIF (South African Isotope Facility)**, an initiative that seeks to secure future sustainability of the facility by procuring a dedicated 70 MeV cyclotron accelerator to boost the production rate of a range of accelerator based radioisotopes.

iThemba LABS is the only research facility in South Africa and throughout the African continent which utilizes particle accelerators to produce radioisotopes which are used in nuclear medicine for cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Commenting on the Deputy Minister's visit, the Managing Director of iThemba LABS, **Dr Faiçal Azaiez** said the timeous occasion of the visit afforded iThemba LABS a crucial and privileged opportunity to present the executive management vision for the future of iThemba LABS

The NRF Deputy CEO in charge of National Research Infrastructure and Platforms **Dr Clifford Nxomani** “We are deeply delighted with the Deputy Minister’s visit to one of our key national research platforms. We are particularly thankful to the Deputy Minister for taking the time out from his tight schedule to visit iThemba LABS and trust that it was an enjoyable and informative time for him and his team.

Website: <https://tlabs.ac.za/>

