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## EDITORIAL

# Aligning research to the national development agenda

A country with a stable and strong economy can be ensured if the people are scientifically literate and innovative and have the capacity to find solutions through scientific and technological research studies for the pressing problems faced by the nation. Scientific and technological research and the resulting innovations can offer the necessary solutions to both national and global problems. The key driver to achieve balanced national development is therefore scientific and technological research and innovations developed through research studies. Scientific researchers and innovators of a country therefore play an important role in national development and have to be supported by the state.

In our country the scientific researchers and technologists are to a large extent funded by the state through many organisations. The private sector also funds a considerable amount of research particularly in the industrial sector. Whether it is state or private sector, funders should consider giving priority to those studies that would be in line with the development agenda of the country.

The scientists and technologists of the country contributed heavily to the development of the National Science and Technology Policy and the National Research and Development Framework. The scientists and technologists must therefore be guided by these

documents when deciding on research studies. The results of such studies will then be in line with the development agenda of the country. The organizations that fund research must give priority to studies, which will result in innovations. Research studies that add to the knowledge base of science is important, but being a developing country the focus should be more on the development agenda and the issues faced by the country. The 2018 budget had as its theme a blue-green economy. It is therefore more appropriate for the researchers to align their research priorities to fall in line with this blue-green theme.

Considering the period 2011-2016 the JNSF has received 299 articles categorised as physical science of which 92 were published. In the case of biological science, the number of articles received for publication has been 467. Of this number 146 articles have been published. The percentage of published articles in physical science is 30.7 % and that of biological science is 31.2 %.

The current emphasis on a blue-green economy will probably show an increase in the number of articles in the biological science areas as well as physical science areas that are aligned with the national development agenda. The JNSF is looking forward with hope for this situation.

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