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**From left to right:** Mr. Otlaadisa Tafila, and Ms. Catherine Tlotlo Kerapetse (SGSP-IWRM PhD candidate); Dr Patrina Mabuku (SGSP-IWRM Post-Doctoral Researcher) ;Prof Benjamin Mapani (Mining Engineering Professor in the Civil, Mining and Process Engineering); Mr. Jimmy Katambo, Ms. Ofentse Moseki, Mr. Petrus Tuhafeni Paulus, and Mr. Muumbe Lwendo (SGSP-IWRM PhD candidates).

# POSTCARD

## Enhancing Dissertation Writing: Seminar on Synthesising Literature, Referencing, and Formatting

On the 27th of March, the SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme in Integrated Water Resources Management (SGSP-IWRM) hosted an insightful seminar on Optimising Dissertation Writing, delivered by Prof. Benjamin Mapani, a distinguished Professor of Mining Engineering from the Department of Civil, Mining, and Process Engineering. The event took place at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in the HTTPS building and was exclusively presented to the SGSP-IWRM PhD students. The seminar focused on three crucial aspects of dissertation writing, synthesising literature, referencing, and formatting. Prof. Mapani, drawing from his extensive academic and research experience, provided valuable strategies to help students enhance the quality of their dissertations and meet international scholarly standards. The session also explored the rationale behind thesis writing in most universities, the development of thematic analysis and writing skills, the application of theories and concepts, and effective strategies for structuring a literature review to ensure coherent and logical flow of ideas.

Prof. Mapani emphasised the importance of critically analysing research findings within the context of existing theories. He encouraged students to always identify the implications of their results, recognise when they are challenging a particular theory, and explore new concepts and methodologies that can enhance their studies. Additionally, he urged students to establish clear connections between their research objectives ensuring that insights gained from the first objective contribute meaningfully to the second. Furthermore, Prof. Mapani advised students to stay well-informed about key articles in their field, write concise conclusions for each paper they review, and carefully examine the scope of existing research to define data gaps effectively. The session was highly interactive, allowing students to seek clarification and share their dissertation writing experiences. This engagement proved invaluable in equipping them with practical skills to enhance their academic writing and strengthen their research contributions.

As the PhD students of SGSP-IWRM continue their research journey, the insights gained from Prof. Mapani's seminar will undoubtedly play a vital role in helping them produce high-quality dissertations that contribute meaningfully to their respective fields. The event concluded with a Question & Answer session, where Prof. Mapani addressed specific challenges faced by students, reinforcing the importance of continuous learning and engagement with academic best practices.

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