

**SPEECH BY
TERTIUS STEARS,
CEO, SANLAM NAMIBIA HOLDINGS
AT THE OCCASION OF
THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF COMPUTERS TO THE
ACCOUNTING LABORATORY AND BURSARIES TO
BENEFICIARIES AT
THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA
ON
07 MARCH 2012**

Master of Ceremonies

Director for Higher Education Ms. Etambuyu Mbuye

Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia

*Dr. Elija Ngurare, Secretary of the Swapo Party Youth League
Polytechnic staff*

Honourable guests – the students and lecturers

Distinguished Guests

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure and honour to be here with you today on behalf of Sanlam Namibia Holdings.

I first of all wish to make use of the opportunity to commend the Namibian government on its continued support and investment in tertiary education and I know that we can certainly achieve the objectives of Vision 2030 through shared initiatives and smart partnerships between the private and public sector. One of the main hindrances to the attainment of this ambitious vision, is the acute shortage of skilled individuals in the country. Sanlam Namibia Holdings is proud to assist Government in the ongoing development of the country by investing in Education and skills development.

Director of Education, your mere presence here today speaks volumes of the relentless and unwavering commitment of the Namibian government to educational and skills development, as well as your steadfast and firm support for initiatives, participation and contributions by the private sector to the attaining of the goals of skills development.

In our pursuit to contribute to the development of the country in general, and the education sector in particular, Sanlam Namibia Holdings, established a relationship with the Polytechnic of Namibia, who also had similar vision and together initiated and undertook various projects jointly. These initiatives have fruitfully benefited the entire nation as a whole. Sanlam Namibia Holdings has over the years contributed to various initiatives of the Polytechnic of Namibia such as bursaries for students, the sponsorship of media studies awards and notably the improvement of the Accounting laboratory.

Today, we are here to witness Sanlam Namibia Holdings honouring its commitment to the Polytechnic of Namibia by purchasing 32 brand new computers for the Accounting laboratory. The donated equipment has a value of more than N\$200 000, and I have no doubt that it will contribute significantly to the improvement of education of accounting students at the

Polytechnic of Namibia. I am further convinced that, it will go a long way in contributing to the skills development of the country in general. I want to encourage the Accounting students to utilise the computers responsibly for the betterment of their accounting and finance skills and knowledge.

Honourable Deputy Minister, when Sanlam Namibia Holdings first introduced its performance-based Bursary Scheme in 2002, more than 40 students have been awarded bursaries to a total cost of N\$1,9 million to pursue studies in the fields of Accounting and Finance, Business Management, Information Technology, Marketing, Media Studies, Human Resource Management and Actuarial Science. Most of these former students now fully employed and some have even done their internships at Sanlam Namibia. Today, Sanlam Namibia Holdings is further availing six (6) bursaries valued at more than N\$160,000 to students at the Polytechnic of Namibia, UNAM and one studying in South Africa.

The students here are indeed fortunate and privileged to study at a tertiary institution that has once again received recognition for being the best in the country. This in itself is a tremendous achievement and I wish to congratulate the Rector Dr Tjivikua and his team on a job well done.

To the students, I would like to say that we at Sanlam Namibia Holdings are advocates of a cause that extends well beyond our balance sheets and board rooms. The reason why we have opted to invest in your future is because we believe that our nation's needs qualified, skilled and knowledgeable people. For our country to develop and prosper we need a workforce that is trained and productive. There is no doubt that you have the creativity, the courage and vibrant energy to contribute to the growth and development of this wonderful nation. In fact, the Namibian nation has eagerly been anticipating your passion, drive and enthusiasm.

Esteemed members of the academia and staff of the Polytechnic of Namibia, your task as educators is not a simple one. Shaping minds in order to meet the challenges of an uncertain future requires dedication and a firm grasp of the dynamic forces that influence our very existence. We at Sanlam Namibia sincerely hope that we can assist you in the above task through our continued support.

I wish to conclude with a quote by a splendid and inspirational Namibian ambassador in the form of Dr Helena Ndume who once had the following to say about employment, "when you engage in work that taps your talent and fuels your passion, that rises out of a great need in the world that you feel drawn by conscience to

meet, therein lies your voice, your calling or your unique selling point or USP". Dear students, I urge you to use the financial support offered by Sanlam Namibia Holdings not just for obtaining a tertiary qualification but also to find your voice, your calling and your unique selling point. Therein lies not only your success but also your character.

I thank you