



POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

WELCOME REMARKS

BY

PROF TJAMA TJIVIKUA

RECTOR: POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA AND THE NAMIBIA
TRAINING AUTHORITY

13 November 2012

**POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA (HOTEL SCHOOL)
WINDHOEK**

CEO of NTA, Mrs Maria Nangolo-Rukoro

NTA Management and Staff

Polytechnic Management and Staff

All esteemed invited guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Polytechnic of Namibia is mandated to offer education and training in Namibia. But the institution also carries the mandate to offer continuing education as every advanced human resource development in Namibia.

On the other hand, the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) is tasked with regulating the provision of Vocational Education and Training (VET), and to secure amongst others, the funding of VET. Thus the NTA is also involved in the development of occupational standards, curricula, standards and qualifications as well as the accreditation of education and training providers and programmes. It is therefore clear that through the respective mandates the Polytechnic and NTA share a common goal, and operate within an overarching field of education and training.

There is an important historical link between our two institutions. In 2000, prior to the establishment of the NTA through the Vocational Education and Training Act (Act 1 of 2008), the Polytechnic through an agreement with the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training (DVET) in the Ministry of Education (Vocational Training, Science and Technology), was charged with the provision of VET Training-of-Trainer courses.

With the establishment of the NTA, this function was effectively then transferred to the NTA.

However our collaboration did not end, in 2009, the NTA awarded the Polytechnic a tender to conduct a pilot study for the training of DTVET instructors to work with the new Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) – no pass or fail but competent or not competent - method of instruction in the vocational institutions. The Polytechnic collaborated with the University of Newcastle, Australia and TAFE NSW Hunter Institute (an Australian Registered Training Organisation), for the development and delivery of the pilot programme.

Extensive consultations between the Polytechnic, University of Newcastle, Australia and the NTA were held during the period 2009 to 2010. The outcome of these discussions was that a curriculum which is based on unit standards will be used to train the instructors. Subsequently, the Polytechnic's Senate approved the Vocational Education Training (VET) Level 5 NVQ. In 2009 permission was also obtained from the NTA to run the VET Level 4 NVQ, in parallel with the level 5 as a pilot project.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Both institutions strive for and promote access, equality and quality in education and training. At the same time, both institutions strongly believe that it is only through quality education and training that conforms to international standards, that can we contribute effectively to the economic development and competitiveness of Namibia.

Given the focus of the Polytechnic on professional and career oriented education and training, our Curriculum Model integrates Work Integrated Learning (WIL) into all the institution's undergraduate academic programmes, thereby ensuring that on completion of their studies, graduates have acquired specific, career focused competences. To further strengthen the competencies of students, the institution as part of its WIL strategy, has adopted service and community engagement in its academic programmes. The unique and added value of service learning as an effective educational approach and pedagogical tool is that students are actively engaged in the learning process, while immersed in communities and thus do not only have an opportunity to explore connections between theory and practice, but also connect with communities.

The NTA is required to facilitate the establishment of an effective and sustainable system of skills development that is aligned with the needs of the Namibian labour market and in addition, provide requisite skills required for accelerated development.

In order to ensure that vocational education and training programmes and services meet the current and emerging needs of industry, business and the broader Namibian community and that trainees acquire competences required for productive work, the NTA has to engage government, business, trade unions, training providers and other relevant business on an ongoing basis. In this way both our organisations will produce diverse and complementary skills needed to meet the needs of business, industry and society and thus contributing to the development agenda of our country. It is therefore appropriate that through the signing of the

Memorandum of Understanding between the Polytechnic of Namibia and the NTA today, we are formalising our collaboration in provisioning of VET trainer education. The agreement is an expression of our willingness and commitment to cooperate in number areas, including the development of VET Trainer qualifications for the training of VET trainers, quality assurance and criteria for and processes to be followed to successfully implement the VET Trainer qualifications.

Let me conclude by stating that the Polytechnic is proud to be associated with the NTA, and we believe that the signing of today's agreement is a milestone in our journey to establish of a long and fruitful relationship. With these few words I bid you welcome to the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Polytechnic of Namibia and the Namibia Training Authority.

I thank you.