



## **POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA**

---

### **WELCOMING REMARKS**

**BY**

**TJAMA TJIVIKUA**

***RECTOR OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA***

**ON**

**THE OCCASION OF THE**

**20<sup>th</sup> POLYTECHNIC CAREER FAIR 2015**

**ON**

**WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2015**

**AT**

**08:30**

-----

**POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA**

**WINDHOEK**

Director of Ceremonies and Head of Communication Department, Ms Emily Brown

Members of Council Present

Our Guest Speaker, Ms Rosalia Martins-Hausiku, CEO of the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund

Management and Faculty of the Polytechnic of Namibia

Esteemed Invited Guests

External and Internal Exhibitors

Students of the Polytechnic

Teachers and Parents present here

Learners from Different High Schools

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

I am deeply honoured by your presence here today and therefore would like to warmly welcome you to the **20<sup>th</sup> Polytechnic Career Fair**.

Throughout the years, the Polytechnic has hosted successful events of this nature and their success stem from the fact that the people who are involved, namely employers, sponsors, students, pupils, faculty and staff have always displayed attributes of cooperation, commitment, support and team work and have shared a common objective of working together to

help students and learners make informed decisions about their future careers.

An important occasion like this one – career fair - marks a vital moment in the lives of many young people. For many, it is simply the eye opener to the “real world of work”, and for others the beginning of a serious job search. This moment is important because it provides many opportunities for all students and pupils present here to develop their soft skills – the social skills that will open many doors. This mega effort we have put together is meant to enable you to make decisions that will ensure you a bright future.

We assure you that this platform allows for a very interesting mix and interaction of exhibitors, students and pupils mainly. Therefore, please allow me to extend a special welcome to you all and to Ms Rosalia Martins-Hausiku, CEO of the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund and our keynote speaker for this morning. Madame Martins-Hausiku, your involvement in the Career Week as well as in other activities of the institution, such as the sponsorship of the Emergency Medical Care programme, is highly appreciated. We are very pleased that you have agreed to share your wisdom with us and we look forward to the guidance and inspiration that you will give to our students and learners.

Director of Ceremonies

At this Career Fair, we are not only joined by learners from schools within the City of Windhoek and the surrounding areas, but also those coming

from as far as the Hardap Region (Rooi Duine Junior Secondary School, C//Oaseb from Gibeon, Mariental Senior Secondary School, Rehoboth Senior Secondary School, M&K Gertze Senior Secondary School and Rehoboth Private School), also with their teachers. This is a clear indication that the Career Fair is serving an important role of providing useful information about possible future careers to learners. It also provides an opportunity for learners to visit a university environment, so do mingle and learn as much as possible about our university.

I want to express our deepest appreciation to the school principals, teachers and parents who have made it possible for the learners to join us today. They are investing in your future. To all the schools, your presence at our Career Fairs has always been valued.

Director of Ceremonies

The 2015 is an exciting year for the Polytechnic because we have so much to celebrate. We are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this institution and the 20<sup>th</sup> Career Fair is part of the events marking the legacy of our institution. You are also aware that 2015 will mark the transformation of the Polytechnic to the Namibia University of Science and Technology, for which together with the nation we will have even greater celebration. However, in order not to caught up in just celebrating and lose focus of what we do as an institution, we have adopted the theme for the year “Excellence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The question is what constitutes excellence in a university? Some may say it is the way we treat our students from the first time they enter the gates of the institution to the time they graduate and leave the institution - the emphasis being on completing their studies on time. Others may say that it when the institution has established good governance and management, and assembled a good team of academics and talented students as well as pooled together adequate resources that it becomes excellent. There are indeed many answers to this question and hence international tables have been developed to rank universities according to their excellence. A new development has been that it is not sufficient to measure institutions only on the basis of their teaching and learning, research, and community engagement outputs, however, increasingly monitoring the employability of the graduates is becoming critical and hence a new ranking of institutions based on the employability of graduates has been developed.

The 2014 Global Employability University Ranking indicates that universities such as Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, Oxford and Caltech, in that order, lead the rankings on employability. It is in this light that our Career Fair is so important - we need to guide students to careers that will open opportunities for employment and even at the early stages learners have to be exposed to appropriate information to help them make decisions on future careers. More importantly, as an institution we need to offer programmes that are in demand in the market.

Director of Ceremonies

At a later stage the learners and students will be taken through our hall where exhibitors showcase their products, programmes and innovative

things they are doing. Please take time at these stall to find out what exactly do their respective companies and organisations do, what subjects and qualifications will be needed for one to be employed in their organisations, and even ask them what makes them a good company to work for. Ask as many questions as possible because that is the only way to learn as much as possible. For those students who are about to complete their studies this will be an opportunity to network, explore the market and through interaction with employers from different companies gain better understanding of job opportunities and requirements as well as market yourselves to potential employers.

#### Director of Ceremonies

At this point I would like to express my appreciation to all the exhibitors who are participating in the Career Fair. Over the years we have built a strong partnership with a number of organisations who have recognised the importance of guiding the youth in their career paths that lead to gainful employment and hence contribute to the economic development of the country. An event of this magnitude cannot be successful without injection of substantial financial resources.

Over the years, a number of sponsors have continued to support the Career Fair and again this year we are grateful to our sponsors, who are: Motor Vehicle Fund (MVA), Nampost and Coca Cola. Thank you for the generous sponsorships, which contribute towards the training and development of the Namibian youth.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Every year a number of people are responsible for organising this event - Meme Shimbuli, our Dean of Students, you are the light behind the Student Affairs team that put together this event. Congratulations once again for a job well done. Let me also acknowledge the important role played by the Departments of Marketing and Communications and Auxiliary Services in making this event a success.

Let me conclude by again welcoming all of you to this year's Career Fair and wish you a pleasant and rewarding event.

I thank you.

-----

**Careers** (Wikipedia)

11 Tips To Get Something Useful Out Of Job A Fair

**Devise a plan for the day.**

**Dress like you would for an interview.**

**Research the companies that will be there.**

**Don't ask questions that you can find answers to online.**

**Remember that this is a networking opportunity.**

**Be prepared to answer questions about yourself.**

**Listen to everyone around you.**

**Be enthusiastic.**

**Apply online after you meet with a company**

**Make sure you have that wow factor.**

**Follow up by email.**