

**DRAFT SPEECH OF HON. ERKKI NGIMTINA, MINISTER OF WORKS AND
TRANSPORT, AT THE OFFICIAL HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF THE
LABORATORY EQUIPMENT TO THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA
POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA, 28 JUNE 2010**

Director of Ceremonies,
His Excellency Egon Kochanke, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of
Germany to Namibia,
Mr. George Simataa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works and
Transport,
Dr. Romeo Bertolini, Counselor for Development Cooperation, Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany,
Dr. Tjama Tjivikwa, Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia
Mr. Axel Momber, GTZ Country Director,
Distinguished invited Guests
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great honour that I stand here today to officiate at this very
important occasion the official handing over of the engineering
laboratory equipment from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische
Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, German Technical Cooperation to the
Polytechnic of Namibia.

I believe that you all will agree with me that the shortage of skilled
personnel in this country is a biggest challenge to Namibia's desired

vision. As it is the case with other sector, the Ministry of Works and Transport has a severe shortage of well trained engineer that are crucial to the Ministry and to the Country at large.

In this regard, the Ministry of Works and Transport engaged in the agreement with German Government via GTZ to provide assistance in terms of qualitative and quantitative improvement of human resources in the Ministry and State-Owned Enterprises in the road sector. According to the agreement, a sustainable Human Resources Development is one of the main leverage to increase performance and efficiency in the whole sector.

In terms of capacity development, GTZ and the Ministry of Works and Transport are equally committed and agreed on the well sought instruments in a narrower and in a broader sense to address the skills shortage in the sector. In the short term, GTZ enhances the institutional and staff performance of the MWT through organisational development and intra-ministerial advanced training measures.

Whereas in the long term, both institution welcome and support the implementation of the institutional cooperation between the Polytechnic of Namibia and the Aachen University of Applied Science. It

is anticipated that the Polytechnic of Namibia's Civil Engineering course will be strengthened through the following activities:

1. Curriculum development,
2. Lecturer exchange,
3. Student exchange
4. Engaging construction industries in engineering education.

The laboratory and the state of art engineering equipments stand as a supporting pillar to these activities and to the Country's attainment of Vision 2030.

An old proverb states that: ***tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand.*** The last two parts of this statement is the essence of availing this engineering laboratory equipment to the Polytechnic of Namibia. The purpose is to bring out a learning environment to create opportunities for student to be engaged in active learning that leads to understating.

While we are witnessing this noble step of equipping the Polytechnic of Namibia with engineering laboratory equipment, I wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to the German

government, particularly to our GTZ partners for the generous support to the Polytechnic of Namibia and to the Transport sector through this very important gesture. This is within the context of the German-Namibian Cooperation framework geared towards sustainable economic and social development of Namibia.

In conclusion, I would like to caution students as well as users of these modern facilities. These facilities worth nothing if they are not used properly, in the same vein, the wrongly use as well as the vandalizing of the facility will never be accepted. I therefore, appeal to the rector and the head of the department of engineering to make sure that these equipments are sustained.

With this few words, I officially launch the handing over of the laboratory equipment to the Polytechnic of Namibia.

I thank you for your attention.