



VOTE OF THANKS

BY

MS. MERIAM KAHITU

POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA COUNCIL MEMBER

AT THE

16TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

HELD AT THE

SAFARI CONFERENCE CENTRE, WINDHOEK

FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2011

THEME:

"TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION"

Director of Ceremonies, *The Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia*
Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Abraham Iyambo
Mr. Niilo Taapopi, Chairperson and Members of the Polytechnic Council
Ladies and Gentlemen
All Protocol Observed

Let me start by expressing our gratitude to our Minister of Education, Dr. Abraham Iyambo for setting aside the time to join us for today's celebrations and to deliver the Keynote Address on behalf of the President. Honourable Dr. Iyambo, your presence as our line Minister has been an inspiration to us all, both staff and graduates. The Council and the entire Polytechnic community are very pleased that the Ministry of Education is in very capable and dynamic hands. We look forward to your continued guidance and mentorship as we strive to take the Polytechnic to even greater heights.

I am also pleased to express our gratitude to our guest speaker, Dr. Helena Ndume for her illuminating and thought-provoking address. Dr. Ndume, you are indeed a pioneer and role-model for many our graduates who are gathered here this morning. It takes courage and determination to achieve what you have achieved at that relatively young age.

The same sentiment applies to the members of the media, whom we can never thank enough for keeping the public and other external stakeholders informed of developments and challenges at our institution. You have our deepest appreciation!

On behalf of the Polytechnic Council, I would also like to recognise the exceptional efforts and commitment of the Polytechnic's management, faculty, and staff, so ably led by the Rector, Dr. Tjama Tjivikua.

A special word of thanks must also go to the NDF Band and the Poly Choir whose talent brightens up this occasion year after year. We are proud of our home-grown talent! Thanks also to the colleagues who organise this event so unobtrusively year after year, led by the Registrar. A warm word of appreciation is also extended to the management and staff of the Safari Conference Centre and the other service providers whose contributions help to make this event the special occasion it is.

To the parents, guardians, relatives and sponsors of our graduates: we appreciate the sacrifices and support you've given them during the hard years of studies, and for coming out here to share in their special day.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate the graduates. Thank you for doing the Polytechnic proud with your hard work and excellent results. Please remember the many pearls of wisdom shared with you today by the various speakers. I would like to end with this quote from Helen Keller, author, speaker, and advocate for disabled persons: *"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."* My advice to you is this: *Take risks.*

I thank you.