



POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

WELCOME REMARKS

BY

TJAMA TJIVIKUA

RECTOR OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH POLYTECHNIC ANNUAL AWARD
CEREMONY**

WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL 2015

AT

18:00

AT

AUDITORIUM 1

POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremonies

Chairperson of the Council of the Polytechnic, Ms Evelyn Breuer, and other
Members of Council Present

Our Guest Speaker, Hon Mr Sacky Shangala, Attorney General of Namibia

Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Leaders of business and Industry

Esteemed Sponsors, Parents, Relatives, Friends and Guardians

Senior Management, Faculty and Staff

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening to you all. I would like to warmly welcome you to this very important and exciting event, the 20th Polytechnic Award Ceremony where we recognise and award top achievers across the Schools for their outstanding academic performances. Our students are indeed top achievers as they are chosen from the best and emerge as the best of the best. I am honoured this evening to welcome you at this auspicious ceremony.

Let me therefore extend a special welcome to our guest speaker for the evening, Honourable Sacky Shangala, Attorney General of the Republic of Namibia. Sir, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment by the President to this important function in our country; it is an expression of the trust and confidence he has in you. We wish you well in your new role, with the belief that you will drive the work in the office with an innovative mind and a proactive approach. So, thank you for honouring our invitation and we look forward to your inspiring address.

Honourable Shangala

We have worked tirelessly on the concept of transformation of the Polytechnic to a university of science and technology since 1996. Hence when, Cabinet in December 2012 eventually accepted our proposal, we were extremely pleased. However to effect the transformation required development of a new Act that would guide the Institution. It is in this regard that we worked with the Law Reform and Development Commission (LRDC) under your very able leadership, Honourable Shangala, to prepare the University of Science and Technology Bill, which was passed by National Assembly about a month ago. We are eagerly awaiting a similar approval from the National Council in a month or two. We are quite excited by these developments because it means the dream of becoming a University of Science and Technology will soon be realised.

I am mentioning this because in our work with the LRDC, I was struck by the commitment, versatility, agility, work ethics and professionalism of Honourable Shangala's and his team. If only Namibian and Namibian organisations could work like that, we would be a competitive economy in a short time. Sir, I believe you lifted your former organisation to a high level of performance and it is a shining example of what professionalism and hard work can achieve.

In our Strategic and Transformation Plan (PSP 4) we have as one of our strategic goals to create a **student-centred environment** which means that a **learning-centred culture is promoted and supported by all activities of the Institution**. Thus **ensuring success of the students** in their academic programmes is one of our key priorities. And so, this year in particular we have adopted an institutional theme, ***“Excellence in the 21st Century”***, which provides the institution **opportunities for self-introspection** with respect to, amongst other things, **how do we govern the institution and its programmes; how do we engage and work with each other; what is the quality of the service we deliver and how do we continuously improve on the quality of that service; and more importantly, what is the quality of performance of students in the academic programmes.**

Tonight is about promoting and entrenching the culture of excellence in students' academic performance. Recognition and awards will be given to students, who despite whatever challenges and distractions might have come their way, have single-mindedly focused on, and put in extra work, in their studies. They have overcome all odds against them and strove for excellence in their studies and therefore will receive awards for being top-class academic performers.

Therefore, I would like to congratulate all those who will be receiving awards for their wonderful achievements. I would like you to realise that if you continue to work hard and achieve the academic scores you have obtained, then you are on a trajectory to a successful future. I urge you to keep up the good work.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It would be remiss on my part not to thank the government, parents, relatives, guardians and sponsors for the critical role they have played in encouraging and supporting you in your studies. They are indeed your greatest motivators.

Furthermore, you achievers owe your success to the faculty, administrators and all those who are involved in nurturing you by taking you from one stage to the next in your academic journey, with so much diligence so that we are able to produce leaders. In two days' time some of you will be at our 20th Graduation Ceremony, receiving your diploma and degree qualifications, an achievement which **will mark the beginning or a new level of engagement of your professional careers.** I therefore wish you success in your future. The important question to the winners is this: What do we learn from this event? It is, that each student has the capacity to excel, nevermind their background or current circumstances. The future of humanity rests in your hands, go out and change the world for the better! Aim for excellence, achieve excellence!

Ladies and Gentlemen

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge all the companies who are sponsoring prizes for the students. At the last count I was informed that over 50 organisations are involved in providing meritorious awards to students. It is quite impressive as the number of organisations involved is growing every year. This is good for Namibia when government, industry and business, academic institutions and individuals take responsibility and collaborate on the project of producing high-level skills for the country and the world at large. The Polytechnic values this partnership with you and your contributions tonight are highly appreciated. Thank you for making an investment into the future of Namibia.

Once again, with those few remarks, I would like to welcome you all to this special evening.

I thank you for your kind attention.

- **Ends.**