



POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

TJAMA TJIVIKUA

RECTOR OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE MOU BETWEEN THE
POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA AND THE NAMIBIA INSTITUTE OF
PATHOLOGY**

ON

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2015

AT

11:00

**SENATE CHAMBER
POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA**

WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremony, Professor Sylvester Moyo: *Dean of the School of Health and Applied Sciences*

Mr Harold Kaura, *NIP's General Manager: Technical Operations*
standing in for Mr Augustinus Katiti, *CEO of NIP*

Senior Management of the NIP

Polytechnic Management and Staff

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to all of you at this important occasion of the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our institution, the Polytechnic of Namibia and the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP). And so allow me to recognise the presence of Mr Harold Kaura, *NIP's General Manager: Technical Operations*, who has been a pillar in the development of NIP and our partnership. Sir, your support is highly appreciated!

I also need to recognise the commitment of NIP and other stakeholders for the excellent collaboration over the years. When we started to explore the collaboration in health education in 2004, NIP was one of several major players, the others being the **Ministry of Health and Social Services, the National Health Training Centre, PathCare, and the Blood Transfusion Services, the City of Windhoek, the MVA Fund, Roman Catholic Hospital.**

We have also received support of the **American Embassy through the American Cultural Centre, the Pefpar Fund through the American International Health Alliance, and the Centers for Disease Control.** Partner universities were originally the **Cape Peninsula University of Technology, and University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences** in the U.S., and subsequently over a dozen others, and industrial partners locally and globally have joined us. Surely the **Namibia Qualifications Authority and the Health Professions Council of Namibia** have played a critical role in validating our qualifications.

Thanks to the partners, today we offer qualifications in **Biomedical Science, Environmental Health Science and Emergency Medical Service, Mathematics and Statistics**, and in the **Natural Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics**.

From **111 students seven years ago**, to date **2 500 students** have been enrolled in these programmes, and thousands more will thus have opportunities to a wide range of options to pursue degrees in their own country.

Director of Ceremonies

It is evident that collaboration has been at the core of our development. Indeed, our phenomenal growth in every core area and in every respect is the result of collaboration. Just last week, this theme was further explored and affirmed at a senior management workshop held last week. Focus was on **teaching and learning, research and collaboration** in the design of an **innovation roadmap**.

In our current strategic plan, PSP-4, collaboration is expressed in our **governance and specific activities** that bring meaning to national development through a meaningful network with government, public and private sectors, professional bodies, NGOs, social communities, other educational providers and the international community.

The collaboration, through building on **work integrated learning here and abroad**, and **relevant interdisciplinary research and scholarship**, would help enhance the learning process of students. Therefore, our model of collaboration seeks to optimise mutual benefits.

Ladies and gentlemen

This collaboration with NIP was cemented by the **first MOU signed in October 2009**. So much has happened since then starting with the **NIP taking in our students for Work Integrated Learning (WIL)** and thereafter when we developed our **WIL Simulation Laboratory**, the NIP provided support to the initiative by availing specimens to the laboratory.

The NIP also complemented the simulated training by offering our students a shorter stint in their laboratories so that they could have the ‘real’ laboratory experience.

Director of Ceremonies

In our collaboration with NIP, to date three cohorts of 74 Biomedical Science students have undergone their experiential training at NIP. All those that have completed their internships with NIP have graduated and have registered with the Health Professions Council of Namibia and are now serving the nation. This is indeed a fantastic achievement.

I would like to thank the NIP for the role they have played in ensuring that our relationship and partnership in this great endeavour still remain strong. The European Association for International Education suggests that establishment of partnerships ***“can be compared with a marriage: one needs to know (more or less) what one wants and expects, to invest time to find and choose the right partner, to get to know the partner, and last but not least, to be prepared for challenges. Healthy partnerships operate on a basis of equality and mutual recognition. The parties should be both compatible (equal enough) and complementary (different enough). And***

throughout the partnership, all those involved need to be willing to work and make it last.” I would like to say you are our ideal partner and thus we are eager and thrilled at the prospects of renewing our “marriage vows.”

Immense appreciation also goes to our industry partners, the management and staff of the School of Health and Applied Sciences, and to our Biomedical graduates who have remained focused and are making us proud in the job market – at NIP, Pathcare, the Blood Transfusion Services of Namibia, the veterinary laboratory, various private laboratories and companies where they are making meaningful contribution towards health services in Namibia and elsewhere as a result of the quality training they have received. I am informed that a good number of them are already holding positions of leadership in the industry and adding value to the profession. **The next cohort of 20 students is awaiting graduation next month and will commence internship at NIP soon.**

Director of Ceremonies

I am also aware and appreciative of the mammoth task Mr Katiti and the NIP are shouldering in providing the one-year internship, a requirement of the Health Professions Council of Namibia for

our graduate students. The duration of the internship is an issue on which we might still need to engage our professional body.

In conclusion, I should reiterate that we are extremely grateful for the good working relationship that exist between us and appreciate your support. We shall continue to strive to produce graduates that are assets to NIP, Namibia and the world in general. With the signing of the MOU I hope that the relationship will continue to strengthen such that it becomes just part of the social fabric of the two institutions with each one being the other's first point of reference.

I thank you.

- ***Ends.***