

Speech by Harold Pupkewitz
At the inauguration of the Harold Pupkewitz
Graduate School of Business, on the occasion of his
95th Birthday – 14 July 2010

It is the ingenuity of the human mind and the dexterity of the human hand that create wealth resulting in dead assets being turned into live ones, productive ones with the use of the machines, vehicles, equipment, computers, computer information/technology all that mankind has devised and is devising increasingly thanks to the hundreds of thousands people engaged in research and development throughout the world. All this has changed our lives and is changing our lives continuously.

I am acquainted with the work of GSB's and with the great variety of people that graduate from them and either return to their employers or seek and find new jobs to suit their enhanced knowledge, information, know-how, expertise, experience and judgmental skills - the kind of people that are snapped up by employers in a world

where there is a great shortage of the skills they need. And so it is in Namibia where an acute skills deficit plagues our economic growth and retards the creation of jobs so acutely needed. This brings me to the point of stressing and explaining how we can create more jobs more quickly.

An African professor in Kenya quite some years ago conducted a study which showed how for every highly skilled executive 18 jobs are created. I then tried to mention and emphasise the need for granting employers more freely and more quickly work permits to employ persons with the skills and experience not obtainable in Namibia so they could grow their businesses and employ more people. I was successful eventually, but the general outcry about the delays and the lack of understanding of the need for granting work permits quickly is still with us. And so our economic growth leading to creation of jobs is retarded unduly.

So let me state categorically why I responded readily to Dr Tjivikua's approach to fund N\$10m for the establishment of the GSB and was delighted with his response to call it the HPGSB.

I offered to pay the in five yearly tranches of N\$2 m each. The first two were, of course, paid on due date in 2008 and 2009 and I decided to speed up the process and so paid N\$3 m today. The balance shall be paid next year, whether I am alive or not.

It gives me great pleasure to express my satisfaction with the progress of the HPGSB made to date and having got to know the Director of the HPGSB, Professor Viola Makin Cruse, I am confident the HPGSB will be a success and we shall yearly benefit from its work.

I spoke earlier of the ingenuity of the human mind and the dexterity of the human hand which brings me to the point of stressing the need for also turning out more artisans, mechanics, handicraftsmen to meet the needs of

a growing economy and moving more in the direction of industrialisation – manufacturing, processing, packaging and packing which are much more job creative than, for instance, mining.

We must also move much - very much - faster in the field of agriculture, not only producing better yields, but also a bigger variety of crops, producing a surplus convertible to cash and in so doing improving the lives, the quality of life of the rural communities and slowing the migration to the towns, which results in creation of slums, increasing unemployment, growth in criminality, etc. So, we need more agriculturists, agronomists, etc. to demonstrate how we can improve the preparation of their lands for yielding better crops and producing a bigger variety of foods.

I shall increasingly support the teaching institutions that produce faster output of specialists to create a better balanced situation in providing the market with a better balanced yearly crop of people to serve it.

One can go on and on but I have probably already overstepped the time allowed and so shall end my speech with wishing the HPGSB lots of success in the years to come. May you become a beacon of light to the many who seek to better their own lives and contribute to the welfare of our country...

Thank you.