



**WELCOMING REMARKS**

**BY**

**TJAMA TJIVIKUA**  
***RECTOR OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA***

**ON**

**THE OCCASION OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
**OF THE COMMERCIAL ADVANCEMENT TRAINING SCHEME**  
**(CATS ) PROGRAMME**

**ON**

**24 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**AT**

**18:00**

**AREBBUSCH TRAVEL LODGE**  
**WINDHOEK**

Director of Ceremonies, Ms Adri Smith-Madih

Hon Dr Itah Kandjii – *Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation*

H E Christian Matthias Schlaga, *Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Namibia*

Mr Patrick Kohlstead , Chairman of the CATS Board of Directors

Mr Sen Iyambo, *Vice-Chairman of the CATS Board of Directors*

Graduates

Distinguish Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Polytechnic community, it is indeed a great pleasure to welcome you all to the 9th Graduation Ceremony of the Commercial Advancement Training Scheme (CATS). A special word of welcome goes to Hon Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education Training and Innovation, who has taken time from her busy schedule to be with us and to deliver the keynote address this evening. Let me recognise HE Ambassador Matthias Schlaga, who is a friend of the Polytechnic and the CATS programme.

This Graduation Ceremony marks and celebrates the completion of the two-year vocational training programme by the graduates who will be awarded the Certification in Business Process Management. The programme is offered by the Centre of Enterprise Development of the Polytechnic of Namibia together with the CATS industry members.

The CATS programme is based on the German Dual System and was initially introduced in South Africa by the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and has been operating there since 1985. It was adapted for and transferred to the Namibia in 2005. Through the association with the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry this two-year vocational training qualification enjoys acceptance and recognition by the European Union. Over the years, the programme has produced a total of about 90 graduates and it is pleasing that soon after graduation most of the trainees are employed at supervisory and managerial levels. This clearly indicates the success of the programme.

As you all are aware all Polytechnic qualifications are developed in response to industry needs and members of industry constitute our advisory committees, which make inputs to the development of curricula taught in our programmes. Furthermore, during the course of their studies, students through Work-Integrated-Learning (WIL) programmes are placed for short stints in industry. Hence they are exposed to operations in that environment. It is clear that this combination of academic and practical experience in industry provides our graduates with the necessary knowledge, skills that are not necessarily provided in the classroom or practiced. Thus, this competitive edge makes the students and graduates sought after in the marketplace. When we were approached to implement this programme, we were more than pleased, not only by the fact that industry chose us as partner to offer the programme, but more importantly, because it fitted well with our pedagogical philosophy.

I am also pleased that CATS partnership has continued over the years, a fact which reflects our shared commitment to developing human capital and ensuring that Namibia achieves its goals as set out in *Vision 2030*. I would therefore like to extend my profound appreciation to our CATS industry partners for their continued support in this great endeavour. You have been investing money for training, time for mentoring and paying salaries while the students were attending classes. This makes it quite a fruitful investment!

Director of Ceremonies

To our graduates here, I am so proud of you because you represent and strengthen our belief that we as Namibians are willing to work hard in order to achieve great things in life. There is no doubt that with the attitude you have you will attain great success. I wish you all the best in the future.

Finally, I welcome you all to this graduation ceremony and congratulate the graduates and everyone who has made an investment in their studies.

I thank you