



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**ADDRESS**

**BY**

**HONOURABLE DR. DAVID NAMWANDI,  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION,**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
MTC BURSARY HAND OVER**

**27 May 2013**

**Windhoek**

Allow me to extend our heartfelt appreciation to MTC for their generous support to another six students. Be assured that this assistance is much appreciated and will make a huge difference in the lives of our students and in our quest to become a knowledge based economy as envisioned in Vision 2030.

Vision 2030 is about people. It advocates a balanced supply of human resources in response to the demands of the labour market. It also calls for more middle and high level skills to grow the Namibian economy. While the Ministry of Education is the major driving force, it could never accomplish this gargantuan task alone. It is for this reason that smart partnerships, or public private partnerships, are so extremely important.

Funding from public-private-partnerships is vital to complement government's efforts. Funding higher education should be properly organised and well-coordinated to ensure that resources are equitable distributed; also taking into account Namibia's orphans and vulnerable children.

Together, we must ensure that the society is supplied with people who are literate, skilled, articulate, innovative, informed and pro-active. Together we must recognise and award excellence and together we must share the development goals of our beloved Namibia.

Annually the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund records a sharp increase in applications for loans, bursaries and scholarships. The Fund caters for new entrants, continuing under-graduates as well as post-graduates. However, the number of applicants outweighs the number of recipients by far. There is simply not enough to go around and benefit each applicant. It is painful to have to turn away a hopeful and deserving young applicant. It is an agony to turn away potential, talent and ambition.

Director of Ceremonies,

Funding for higher education traditionally relied on government subsidies. In spite of Government's generous support to higher education, the educational needs are too enormous to be catered for by Government alone. We require a focused, concerted effort and contributions by all stakeholders to the higher education arena in order to create a better and more developed Namibia.

The continued and sustained support of MTC is much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. However, I urge members of various sectors of the economy to emulate your exemplary support and assist government by investing heavily in higher education. I appeal to the captains of industry to take learners and students under your wing. Financing higher education is imperative as the country's economic development depends on a skilled labour force.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Congratulations to the six year students receiving these awards from MTC. You have proven that hard work brings special awards and that effort pays off. Consider yourselves fortunate, do your best and succeed. I know that, having come this far, you will not let your sponsors, your parents, yourselves or your country down.

Knowledge is power. Use every opportunity that comes your way to gain knowledge and equip yourself to be the best you can be. Make use of the internships offered by MTC in order to gain work experience and apply the knowledge you have gained. Continue to excel. Continue to rise above the crowd and continue to reap the sweet rewards of success.

Thank you, once again, to MTC for recognising and rewarding excellence. Thank you for taking the hand of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and supporting higher education. With partners like you, we face a promising future.

I thank you !.