



POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

WELCOME REMARKS

BY

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RECTOR

AT THE

**CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF LOGISTICS AND
TRANSPORT (CILT) INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMA
GRADUATION 2013**

27TH APRIL 2013

09:00

SAFARI HOTEL

WINDHOEK

Honourable Erkki Nghimtina, *Minister of Works and Transport*

Ms Janntje Boehlke-Itzen, *Project Coordinator, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences*

Distinguished Colleagues, Graduates and Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

In any consumer market, logistics management is a core competence of any business. Logistics constraints compromise import and export efficiency and place limits on a country's potential development potential. Thus logistics has always been relevant to Namibian but it is only recently that we have started to address the human resources requirement from the academic perspective.

The field of logistics is constantly evolving and developing to match the demands of the global demands in development, trade, transport, supply chains. Only by understanding the demands and associated logics can a country be competitive in trade. It is for these reasons that we as a university provide the required qualifications at under- and post-graduate levels in transport management, logistics, and supply chain management. Associated with these are our service in providing best-practice advice, research and consultancy prospects and support to the country's industrial sectors.

Recent research carried out both by the NGCL and the World Bank highlights the importance of logistics in achieving national and regional objectives and the associated human resources shortages. The same importance is captured and NDP-4. This is one reason why the role of higher education in national development must be strengthened in addressing scarce skills shortages.

Namibia aims to be the gateway to Southern Africa by operating a regional logistic hub, and by having various road and transport networks. Thus we will have to invest aggressively in our human resources as we are investing in the infrastructure. To this end the Polytechnic, in the academic partnership with Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, has taken the responsibility to develop

national capacity in logistics and supply chain management. Thus through the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics, the partnership has recently made great strides in developing various academic programmes and qualifications in the fields of transport and logistics. These programmes include running various vocational courses for professional institutes such as CILT (Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport). By the way, these qualifications are not stand-alones; they are complemented by the large number of disciplines offered across our university, such as industrial engineering and international business.

The partnership between the NGCL and CILT has positively expanded the scope of our activities. Global advances in supply chain thinking combined with the importance of logistics and supply chain management to Namibia, require us to further broaden our scope to support the development of excellence in the art and science of end-to-end supply chain management. With this in mind, as part of the NGCL's on-going strategic planning we place a strong focus on providing training courses to industry, across a range of logistics and supply chain areas, thereby contributing meaningfully to our GDP growth and employment.

The CILT Diploma in Logistics and Transport is a part-time one-year course for those wish to grow their careers in Logistics, Transport and Supply Chain Management. The course combines academic theory with practice, providing the synthesis that will help the participants develop supply chain competencies in Namibia by learning best practices employed by leading international companies, which can in turn be transferred to the workplace. We aim to build upon our current success and continue to improve the delivery of training for the industry.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our partner the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences and CILT for broadening our capacity in academic offerings and industry-relevant training.

Our Government, in this particular case as represented by the Ministry of Works and Transport, and parastatals such as the Road Authority and Namport have shown great understanding and support in our efforts. You may take note that Namport has just announced that it will sponsor the Namport Endowed Chair of

Logistics, valued at N\$ 2 million. We thank you for all your encouragement, which have facilitated our efforts to help the sector to advance towards international standards.

As I conclude I must thank all other industry partners and congratulate today's graduates you for their success. You have succeeded to balance your personal, professional and academic lives, and I trust you will be leading experts in the field of logistics and supply chain management. But it is only possible to remain current or ahead of others if you keep abreast of the field and continue to the next level in this field.

I thank you and wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

- Ends.