



POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

WELCOME REMARKS

BY

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ON THE OCCASION OF
THE MEDI BRIEFING ON GERMANY'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE
EDUCATION SECTOR IN NAMIBIA

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ENGINEERING BUILDING
POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

Director of Ceremonies

Counsellor for Development Cooperation at the German Embassy, Ms Annegret Al-Janabi

Members of the Development Cooperation Team

Representatives of GIZ and KfW

Senior Management and Faculty of the Polytechnic

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to welcome you on this special occasion of the briefing of the media about Germany's Engagement in the Education Sector in Namibia. I would speak specifically to activities relating to the Polytechnic of Namibia, soon to be renamed as Namibia University of Science and Technology. The institution's renaming is a hard-won victory and no less with the support of academic and development partners.

Let me therefore welcome Ms Annegret Al-Janabi and her Development Cooperation Team, who together with the implementing organisations, namely the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and KfW Entwicklungsbank are hosting the Press briefing here at the Polytechnic. The Polytechnic is honoured to have been chosen as a venue for the Press Briefing.

The historical ties between our two countries go back to about 130 years and particularly post independence strong bilateral relations developed in the political, economic, cultural and development cooperation spheres. Of paramount importance is that in the areas of cooperation education and skills have been at the centre of the developmental agenda. The Polytechnic, by virtue of being involved in education and training in the key areas of cooperation, namely Natural Resource Management, Civil Engineering, Transport and Sustainable Economic Development, has thus worked in partnership with the Development Cooperation Office and its implementing agencies over a number of years.

Director of Ceremonies

Please allow me to demonstrate our close cooperation through use a few projects that highlight the important role and contribution the Development Cooperation and the implementing agencies have made in the teaching, learning, research and service of the Polytechnic.

1. During the period 2007-2016 under the mandate of “*Strengthening of Institutional Development and Capacity Building in the Road and Academic Sectors in Namibia*”, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), through The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), funded the School of Engineering to the tune of about € 7.8 million. Of this amount some went into equipping the Materials Testing Institute with the state-of-the-art laboratory machineries and equipment to address the civil engineering training needs of both undergraduate and postgraduate students and cutting edge research as well as the needs of industries and consulting firms.

The other €3.1 million is being utilised towards staff development at Masters and PhD levels in conjunction with the University of Applied Sciences Aachen and Bergische Universität Wuppertal and also for road sector research development, curricular and reference materials.

2. The Capacity Building in Facility Management in Southern Africa Universities Initiative, involving our Department of Civil Engineering and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology assisted by the Institute of Facility Management at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, received €1.2 million from DAAD. The thrust of the initiative was to develop, train and incorporate facility management knowledge and techniques in our curricula and so far staff, students and industries in Namibia have benefitted from the programme. With a further injection of €1.2 million from 2015 – 2018 it is hoped that other activities including the introduction of a Master's degree programme in Facility and Infrastructure Management at the Department of Civil Engineering will take place in 2015.

3. In relation to the Departments of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering and Electrical and Electronic Engineering partnerships have been entered into with various German institutions including the University of TU Clausthal, FH-Aachen, Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg, Technische University Georg Agricola für Rohstoff, Energie und Umwelt zu Bochum, and University of Applied Sciences Jena in the areas of student and staff exchange and joint research. Through this assistance the Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering was able to produce its first graduates in mining this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen

4. Another area of importance to Namibia is logistics, where DAAD's initial funding of about €1.2 million led to the establishment of the Namibian German Centre for Logistics (NGCL), which is a collaborative initiative between the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Applied Sciences Flensburg. Its aim is to become a "*Centre of Excellence*" for logistics education, research and consultancy in Namibia. This initiative has resulted in the development of academic degrees at Bachelor and Masters levels and also working with professional institutes helped grow vocational courses that enable employees of various logistics companies to avail themselves of training to enhance the operation of this important industry. Following a performance evaluation of the Centre last year, it is pleasing that it will receive from DAAD a further grant of €1.2 million for the period up to 2018.
5. The Development Cooperation has also supported programmes in the School of Natural Resources and Tourism. In the implementation of the Land Administration and Land Valuation Programmes, these programmes were sponsored by the Support to Land Reform Programme via GIZ and the funds were used to install dedicated computer facilities for the two sister programmes. To help in the implementation of the Masters of Integrated Land Management, GIZ provided a grant of €100 000 for the development of materials and retention of faculty. Furthermore, GIZ as leading partner tendered jointly with the Integrated Land Management

Institute to implement the communal land support programmes. This was a Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) funded project and GIZ has set up a secretariat at the Polytechnic. In this respect, an important development was the CIM Expert Programme which sponsored three positions to the School with another two or so coming hopefully early 2014.

CIM experts were also sponsored for other disciplines, namely Information technology and Innovation.

6. Last month the Polytechnic hosted a world conference on Engineering and Business Education (ICEBE) in partnership with University of Applied Sciences Wismar and the University of Applied Sciences Jena, with funding from DAAD.
7. It is also pleasing to report that the Polytechnic is a major participant in the SASSCAL project, funded by BMBF to the tune of €50 million, where we assisted to facilitate the set up of the secretariat and where several colleagues are engaged in multi-million dollar research projects.
8. At the broader level, the Polytechnic is a participant in DAAD! EDU-LINK and Erasmus Mundus projects with several German universities, such as Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Joanneum University of Applied Sciences, as well as other universities in Africa and globally.

Madame Counsellor Al-Janabi, the list of activities involving the Development Cooperation and its associated agencies I have just enumerated is not exhaustive, but this in many ways reflects your deep engagement with the Polytechnic. Further, I have no doubt that it signifies the Development Cooperation's greater multifaceted involvement in our education system. For that I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the German government without whom the education enterprise would not be where it is today.

With those few remarks I would like to again welcome you to this Press briefing.
I also express my wish for future fruitful collaboration.

I thank you.