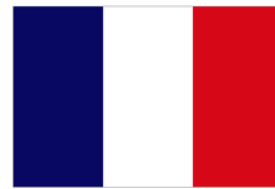




POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA



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Contact person: Ms. Rikondjerua Lubansa, Public Relations Officer, Polytechnic of Namibia
Tel: + 264-61-207-2495, Fax: + 264-61-2072302, Mobile: 0813205078,
email: rlubansa@polytechnic.edu.na

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PRESS RELEASE

POLYTECHNIC AND FRENCH EMBASSY SIGN CONVENTION AGREEMENT

Windhoek, 14/05/2008 - The Polytechnic of Namibia and the Embassy of the French Republic today signed a convention agreement of subsidy which provides bursaries to 86 students who enrolled for the Beginner's French course offered at the Institution.

The Polytechnic's Foreign and National Languages Unit has been offering French courses since 2007. The main beneficiaries of the funding are students in Hospitality, Tourism and Marketing management. In addition, a special extra-curricular Beginner's French class is offered in the evening to 30 members of the public. The classes are taught by Ms Guillemette Laude, a lecturer from France, who was appointed by the Embassy. She is assisted by Ms. Tashiya Amkongo, a Namibian lecturer at the Polytechnic of Namibia.

Cultural promotion and the teaching of French constitute two key goals of the French Cooperation Office, and the Polytechnic has welcomed this opportunity to offer its students the choice of French in their curriculum. French is taught in seven Namibian high schools (from Grade 8 to Grade 12). In 2006, France launched an ambitious programme aimed at improving Namibian learners' access to French by equipping local schools with Francophone multimedia.

"Speaking more than one language is a skill which will increase your international marketability. Schools and employers tend to prefer candidates who speak one or more foreign languages. Even though English is widely spoken in much of the world, the fact is that the global economy depends on communication. Knowledge is power

and learning a language such as French can serve as a gateway to different cultures and experiences“, said Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the Polytechnic.

Both the French Ambassador, HE Mr Philippe Bossiere, and the Deputy Minister of Education, in their addresses agreed that the agreement was about much more than a mere the opportunity for young Namibians to learn just another language, but that it was about promoting cultural diversity and preparing Namibians to take advantage of globalization. According to the French Ambassador, it was also intended “... to allow Namibia weight more on the international scene and prepare herself to conquer markets and ... to give a better chance to young women and men of this country of a bright future.”

Dr Becky Njoze-Ojo praised the Polytechnic’s efforts to enrich the education of its graduates with courses such as the French course, saying that it would help to increase their employability globally and support Namibia’s competitiveness on global markets. “Do your best on the course in order to be able to take maximum advantage of later opportunities you may have to place yourself and Namibia more prominently on the global map,” said Dr Njoze-Ojo.

Further information about the course can be obtained from Ms. Jean Hunter, Foreign and National Languages Coordinator, Communication Department, Polytechnic of Namibia. Her contact details are Tel. (+264-61) 207 2419/207 2226, Fax (+ 264 61)207 2310, and email jhunter@polytechnic.edu.na.

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