

Poly lecturer encourages use of mobile learning technology

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With nearly every student and staff member at the Polytechnic owning a mobile phone nowadays, the Instructional Technology Unit of the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has called on students and lecturers to make use of the technological applications that modern mobile phones offer to enhance their teaching and learning processes.

Maurice Nkusi, Head of the Instructional Technology Unit at CTL, says that because of the popularity of mobile phones among the academic population, it is important, especially for distance education students, to capitalise on useful mobile applications such as the internet and text message services to access quality teaching and learning materials online and to share information with one another. In this way they will encourage interaction and they could even cut travelling costs to Windhoek.

“Today we are witnessing rapid development and innovation in the area of technology. Most sectors, such as chain production, business, military and health, are taking advantage of available technologies to solve problems they are facing in their fields.

“Unfortunately, in the education sector, we are not doing as well as others to take advantage of tremendous opportunities offered by new technologies, especially mobile phones, to enhance and improve performance in the education system. The disturbing part is that even though we have the technology at our disposal in most cases, we are reluctant to use it for the benefit of our students,” Nkusi said.

Nkusi, a regionally renowned technocrat, challenged the Polytechnic’s academic population to make use of mobile phones



in their teaching and learning, in order to access quality training materials without, for example, necessarily attending classes or workshops which are very costly in terms of transport and accommodation.

He argued that with mobile phones, students can effectively engage in virtual classroom discussions, assessment and collaboration.

“Mobile phones are now affordable and it makes sense for lecturers and students to make use of them to enhance their learning processes and fit into the 21st century,” he argued.