

University of Barcelona and Polytechnic launch agreement

Ambassador Barnuevo said the project had the potential to capitalise on existing knowledge and expertise with an aim to upgrade even more, the training offered by the Department of Hospitality and Training of the Polytechnic.



Pictured at the recently held tourism seminar, are from left: Lameck Mwewa, Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Tourism, Chris Muth, General Manager: Kempinski Hotels, Anna Balletbo, President: International Olof Palme Foundation, H.E. Alfonso Barnuevo, Ambassador: Kingdom of Spain, Maria Abellanet, General Director Group CETT – University of Barcelona, Dr. Joram Ndlovu, HOD of the Department Hospitality and Tourism, Dr. Gert Günzel, Vice-Rector of the Polytechnic, and Professor Damia Serrano, Tourism School CETT – University of Barcelona.

The Spanish Government has contributed N\$2 million for this three-year initiative through the Counterpart Fund of the Spanish Cooperation which aims to contribute to the industrial and economic development of Namibia, mostly through the provision of assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises.

“This new line of collaboration between the University of Barcelona and the Polytechnic of Namibia responds fully to the overall objectives of the Fund, taking into consideration the important impact of the tourism sector on the national economy.

“The tourism sector contributes directly towards employment creation, by enabling the growth of small and medium enterprises, particularly in rural areas. This makes tourism a valuable tool for socio-economic development,” Ambassador Barnuevo said.

The ambassador said that in order to accomplish this objective, Namibia needed to face a major challenge in building its human resources in order to provide high quality services to in-coming tourists. He emphasised that without

properly equipped professionals, Namibia would not be in a position to maximize the tourism sector’s potential as an engine for poverty alleviation.

“This challenge lies at the core of the institutional cooperation programme that we are launching here today. This joint venture will allow an exchange of experiences and a transfer of knowledge between our two countries. Indeed, Spain and Spanish institutions, such as the University of Barcelona, have a lot of experience in the tourism sector, and they are happy to share with our Namibian partners,” Ambassador Barnuevo said.