

# Official opening of the Academic Year 2010

The Minister of Education, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, was full of praise for the Polytechnic of Namibia when he conducted the official opening of the institution's academic year on campus this morning.

As a former teacher and an educationist, Minister Mbumba said he was honoured to be associated with the Polytechnic, an institution that had come to be identified



in order to meet national human resources needs."

He said although the Polytechnic's programmes were designed to meet the needs of industry and the considerable challenges which the nation faced, the institution should introduce technical programmes with the potential of self-employment.

"It is in this context that it is gratifying to note that the Polytechnic not only produces students who will end up as job seekers, but also trains graduates who will start their own businesses and thus create employment for themselves and others. I

would like to commend the Polytechnic for having launched the Pro-Learning Programme that does much more than merely teaching students the theory and practical skills needed to start an own business. The programme actually helps them start their own businesses while



they are studying, and this is an innovative initiative both in Namibia and beyond," the Minister said proudly.

He encouraged the management and staff of the Polytechnic to maintain their commitment to innovative programmes that served the national cause.



Polytechnic's theme for the new academic year, "Rethinking Competitiveness for Socio-Economic Development," Minister Mbumba said it was a befitting slogan to mark 15 years of the existence



of the Polytechnic as an institution of higher education, because it

had lived up to the challenge of transformation, innovation and capacity building. "In order for us to re-think competitiveness, we need innovative, critical thinkers to challenge old assumptions and traditional ways of doing things across a wide spectrum of disciplines," Minister Mbumba said.

Dr. Tjama Tjivikua informed the huge number of first year students in the audience that the Polytechnic had become 'the university of first



with quality, academic excellence and competence. The Minister also congratulated the Polytechnic for being "pro-active and a trendsetter in a variety of relevant disciplines in

choice in Namibia.' He told the students that the Polytechnic shall this year again educate and graduate students in different fields of study, signifying that they were ready and well equipped to take the helm in Namibia or anywhere in the world, with the required capacity and confidence, as defined



by their knowledge, skills and competence. "I therefore congratulate my colleagues and our students, as well as all the stakeholders,

for continuing to raise the bar of excellence and for driving our institution to ever greater heights!" Dr. Tjivikua said. He assured members of the graduates have been tried and tested and that they were sought after in the job market.

"Our pledge to you is that we will continue to



deliver high quality programmes that are relevant to national needs, in line with market requirements, and aligned with your and society's high expectations!" the Rector said.

During the ceremony to mark the official opening of the academic year, the Chairperson of the Council of the Polytechnic, Oloff Munjanu, called upon the Government to speed up the process of establishing the Polytechnic as a university of science and technology.

He said: "This is essential if we are to improve the quality and credibility of our programmes, our international linkages and our innovation capacity even further, and through which we can further enhance our nation's progress towards the international competitiveness it desires. The Polytechnic is a committed and important partner in this endeavour, but we need the full support of our Government and other stakeholders."



the new students and other audience that the Polytechnic's



During the ceremony to mark the official opening of the academic year, the Chairperson of the Council of the Polytechnic, Oloff Munjanu, called upon the Government to speed up the process of establishing the Polytechnic as a university of science and technology.

