

There were smiles all round when Dr Tjivikua and Ambassador Ipumbu signed the Memorandum of Agreement



The Polytechnic of Namibia and Agribank have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which will contribute to the development of agriculture as an important economic sector in Namibia.

According to the Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, the Agreement signed by him and Ambassador Leonard Ipumbu, CEO of Agribank, will take the two institutions to greater heights and play a pivotal role in driving the nation towards its Vision 2030 objectives.

One of the most important activities covered by the Agreement is the promotion of research and training in agricultural related activities.

In his remarks, Dr. Tjivikua described land reform as a social engineering project that requires a new economic policy framework and new resources. He added that land reform was about uplifting and empowering the poor, and about building capacity. It was, however, a very complex challenge that required sophisticated solutions in the form of administrative capacity, skills, assets and salaries. Dr. Tjivikua said: “By combining the related specialisations of land management, agriculture, nature conservation, community-based natural resource management and tourism, the Polytechnic has been a key education and training partner in this critical area. Indeed, we are a leader in land management education in Africa.”

He said the Polytechnic was very proud to be playing its part in building capacity in land management for the public and private sectors, locally and in the sub-region.

“We are committed to aligning our educational goals, research objectives, training strategies and programmes, and services, to global best practices and standards. We take pride in equipping our graduates to deliver effective, modern and innovative land administration systems and management expertise. The Agreement we have signed encapsulates and advances these ideals,”

Dr. Tjivikua said. Ambassador Ipumbu said the Agreement was initiated because Agribank deemed it necessary and expedient to work in close collaboration with institutions of higher learning such as the Polytechnic of Namibia. The aim was to facilitate the speedy implementation of programmes of mutual benefit, especially in such areas as student bursaries, internship, training of Agribank staff, research and development in agriculture, aquaculture, livestock and crop production.

“Agribank understands the pivotal role education plays in preparing the workforce to meet the changing business environment by being highly productive and innovative at work. Agribank believes that these types of network collaborations will drive excellence in knowledge production, distribution and its utilisation to contribute to the national economic growth and the realisation of Vision 2030,” the CEO said.