



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

News from the  
Polytechnic of Namibia  
**27 January 2012**  
www.polytechnic.edu.na  
Comments or queries -  
email: polytech@polytechnic.edu.na

# POLYnews

...your window to the Poly

## Poly sets new standards in registration efficiency

### Online registration system the secret, says Rector

A record two-thirds of the 13 000 students expected to enrol at the Polytechnic of Namibia this year have already registered, even though classes at the institution are only due to start on 8 February, thanks to a state-of-the-art online registration system for continuing students. Manual registration of the remaining students is also expected to proceed smoothly, thanks to additional staff training and fine-tuning of procedures.

Commenting on the new standard of efficiency the institution is setting in enrolling its students, Polytechnic Rector, Professor Tjama Tjivikua, points out that all returning or continuing students have been able to register from 12 January without setting foot on campus.

"Thanks to the sophisticated on-line system being used for the fifth time at the Polytechnic, about 8 000 continuing or returning students could register from anywhere in the world as from 12 January. All they needed was access to a computer and the internet. Even the registration fee could be deposited into the Polytechnic's bank account electroni-

cally. This convenient mode of registration is available at only a fraction of residential universities on the continent," Tjivikua explains.

For continuing students without access to private online facilities, the Polytechnic set aside special time slots during which students could use any of the hundreds of computers at the Windhoek campus or the 10 regional centres throughout Namibia.

A number of measures have also been put in place to smooth the traditional registration process for the 5 000 students who will be registering at the Polytechnic for the first time this year. These students are required to physically come to the Polytechnic to have their original certificates, identity documents, etc. verified. "However, once this has been done, the students will be able to enjoy the convenience of online registration until the day they graduate," says the Rector.

According to the Registrar of the Polytechnic, Corneels Jafta, a small army of lecturers and administrative officers is on hand from Thursday 26 January to Friday, 3 February to as-



Students pictured during the registration

sist and advise first-year students during the registration period. First-year distance education students in the various regions are able to register at the regional centre closest to them. The registration schedule for new students has been widely advertised in the media and on the Polytechnic's website since December last year.

Jafta adds that several briefing sessions have been held to ensure that staff members participating in the registration process are fully informed about their duties and responsibilities. "Past challenges, procedures and routines were thoroughly reviewed

and revamped where necessary to ensure that the process runs as smoothly as possible this year. I am confident that many of the historical niggles will be significantly reduced," he says.

To reduce waiting times in the inevitable queues associated with manual registration procedures, specific registration dates have been allocated to specific programmes. "In addition, students will register in specific time slots according to their surnames. They will therefore have the convenience of only having to

come to the campus on a particular day and time. This will also help to reduce crowding, improve order and ensure the safety of students and staff at all times. Technicians will also be on hand to deal with the inevitable technical gremlins wherever these may arise," Jafta adds.

"Despite these efforts, the Polytechnic is well aware that problems may still arise from time to time," the Registrar says, adding that students, parents and staff should exercise patience where such problems arise during the registration process.

## NBIC arranges "BOOTCAMP" for prospective entrepreneurs

The Namibia Business Innovation Centre (NBIC) at the Polytechnic of Namibia will launch its activities for the year with an exciting "BOOTCAMP" business start-up workshop aimed at guiding prospective entrepreneurs to successfully implement their business ideas.

According to Dagmar Honsbein, General Manager of the NBIC, the BootCamp training programme targets all interested parties who wish to open their own business in the near future.

"As Namibia's

premier entrepreneurship support centre, the NBIC has designed an intense BootCamp package to help entrepreneurs finally turn that long nurtured business idea into action and revolutionize the way business is done in Namibia," she explained.

According to Honsbein, BootCamp sessions will cover exciting themes such as Market Research, Business Planning, Business Registration and Tendering, Corporate Social Responsibility, Business Simulation and Finance. Investor

days are also included to assist prospective entrepreneurs to "kick-start" their businesses.

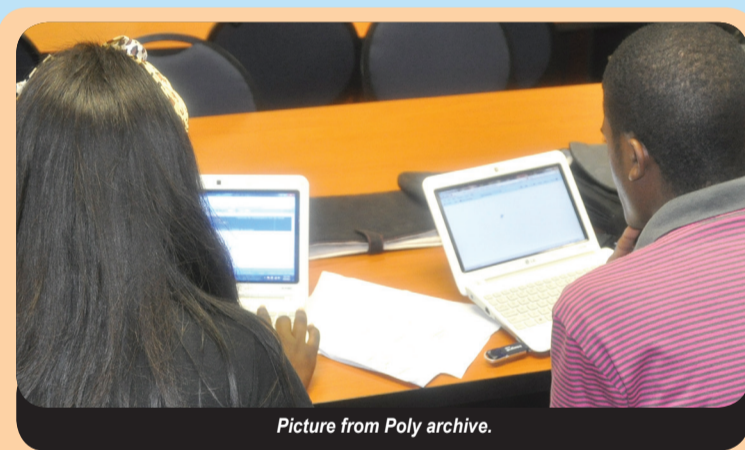
"We welcome dedicated entrepreneurs with fresh concepts and the stamina to get going and keep going, even when the going gets tough," she cautioned.

NBIC's Entrepreneurship and Incubation Officer, Julius Andima, invited interested applicants to send two-page summaries outlining their innovative business ideas/concepts to the NBIC with a motivational letter and CVs of all team members in the start up, should they wish to apply as a group. According to Andima, working as a group enhances team spirit and get things done much better, compared to participating as an individual.

The deadline for applications is 30 January. The BootCamp will be conducted at the NBIC Innovation Village in Windhoek, except for the business planning part. The latter sessions will be held at Eagle Rock Lodge outside Windhoek.

Andima warned that admission to the BootCamp is by application only. It is open to all members of the public 18 years or older who are interested in "fast-tracking" their business plans and finally turn their long-nurtured business ideas into action.

Andima can be contacted at Tel. (061) 207 2897, 081 6266350 (mobile) or by email at jandima@polytechnic.edu.na.



Picture from Poly archive.

## Microsoft IT Academy in full swing

The Microsoft IT Academy at the Polytechnic of Namibia has invited prospective applicants to apply for the various short courses that it offers at the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development (CED). The courses are currently being advertised in various newspapers and affirms the promise made at the launch of the Academy last year to provide students and the public with affordable training, access to the latest resources and recognized certification in Microsoft technologies.

The courses currently on offer at the Academy include Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Outlook and PowerPoint (at Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels). Registration is ongoing and the cost is a reasonable N\$ 900 for each course per day, including course material.

Other streams on offer include MCTS, MCITP and International Certification through an Authorized Prometric Testing Centre. Special academic pricing on training materials is also made available to trainees.

According to the Academy's Manager, Anri Minnie, the courses on offer will equip students with advanced technical skills which will improve their chances of finding employment upon completion of their studies.

She invited students at tertiary institutions as well as members of the business community to register at the Microsoft IT Academy. "The Academy offers substantial time and cost savings on training in Microsoft products by utilising "ready-to-go" technology and an online or e-learning curriculum," she explained.

Minnie encouraged prospective applicants to register at the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development at the Polytechnic, or alternatively to contact the CED at Tel. (061) 207 2955 or by email at microsoftitacademy@polytechnic.edu.na.

**NBIC BOOTCAMP 2012**  
KICK-START YOUR BUSINESS  
JOIN THE NBIC BOOTCAMP 2012.  
Get intense training to fast-track your business plan and finally turn that long-nurtured business idea into action.

Between 11 February and 2 April 2012, NBIC and its partners will bring you a package of exciting sessions to kick-start your business: Idea Review, Market Research, Business Planning, Finance, Registration, Tendering, Corporate Responsibility and a Business Simulation. Plus attention by mentors and plenty of networking opportunities.

Logos: NBIC, IMU, The Namibia Procurement Fund, Global Compact Network Namibia, EAGLE ROCK, Development Bank of Namibia

Events

Registration now on! Good luck to all applicants.