Remarks by the Acting CEO of the Namibia Training Authority
ESTER ANNA NGHIPONDOKA
at the handover ceremony of two hydraulic training stations to NIMT Southern Campus, Keetmanshoop.


NIMT SOUTHERN CAMPUS, KEETMANSHOOP.
Good Morning

As the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Training Authority, I am indeed delighted to officiate at this handing ceremony of two hydraulic power stations to the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology.

Thank you very much for the invitation. I always look forward to travel to the great Karas region, because I always enjoy the vast open spaces, the natural scenery and most importantly, the typical friendliness and hospitality of the people of the south.

A heightened commitment to improved training and related services delivery, organisational effectiveness, funding, regulation and the collection of the training levy underpin the new five-year strategy of the Namibia Training Authority. Our new five-year strategy is not about merely securing incremental improvements on what has already been achieved, but a focused attempt aimed at securing fundamental change in our current training and service delivery arrangements.

It involves decisive and bold actions to re-engineer an organisational framework that speaks to the needs of our stakeholders, that clearly and unequivocally defines what, why and how matters must be dealt with and that sets the direction and tone for performance and accountability.

Our national Vocational Education and Training system sets clear expectations—through legislation, standards and requirements—for registered training organisations to take responsibility for the quality of their qualifications and services.

The Namibia Training Authority recently gazetted and launched the Regulations for the Registration of Training Providers. As the official regulating body, the Namibia Training Authority expects that all training providers will meet these standards, which are aimed at countering some of the symptoms of the current training market. These symptoms include amongst others:
The setting up of small institutions which would charge money for training purposes and later on close down for undetermined reasons, fleecing thousands of dollars from unsuspecting trainees;

Institutions which would charge exorbitant fees, but offer cheap, non-effective training, leaving unsuspecting trainees with no skills to competitively enter the job market;

Institutions which were run by unqualified managers and had equally under-qualified trainers who offered training and assessment;

Institutions which did not have the required human and infrastructure resources to run training,

Institutions which trained in areas for which there was no market demand, meaning that people with skills in those areas would remain redundant in the market;

Institutions with little or no understanding of the concept of quality in training; and

No legal requirements or mechanisms by which quality in training was governed or regulated.

• ESTEEMED GUESTS;
• LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am indeed delighted in stating that the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) is NOT such a training institution.

On the contrary, NIMT has been feeding our industries with hundreds of vocational training graduates per annum. In fact, in industry circles, the name NIMT has become synonymous with quality vocational education and training outputs.

As such, NIMT has not only grown in capacity in bringing vocational education and training to the doorsteps of many young people, but also in stature as a preferred and reputable training service provider for the delivery of skills, especially for the mining and related services sector.

Indeed, when the Namibia Training Authority launched the Regulations for the Registration of Training Providers earlier this year, NIMT was one of a few training institutions who immediately met all the requirements to be registered as a training provider.

• ESTEEMED GUESTS;
• LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

There continues to exist significant scope for more substantive and mutually beneficial cooperation in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training field. Our government alone cannot be able to deliver - We therefore need to strengthen our partnerships with local and international donors and the private sector for the good of all our people.

As such, our training institutions need to continue to find innovative ways how they can intensify their strategic and mutually beneficial partnerships with donors in delivering a vocational education and training regime that is relevant to our country’s development needs and which is able to respond to new technological, economic and demographic challenges.

This donation of two hydraulic power stations to the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology is an
excellent example of such an innovation. Allow me therefore to commend the Hans Riehle Education Trust, in cooperation with the Rotary International Club Ludwigsburg, Rotary International Club München 100 (Germany) and Rotary International Club Lüderitzbucht (Namibia), for your decision to invest in this training centre.

Not only is it an investment in the trainees of the NIMT Southern Campus, it is also an investment in the Keetmanshoop community, the Karas region, and the country at large. This donation is a clear indication that as donors, you have not lost touch with the communities you are working with.

I must restate for emphasis that your contribution is a contribution towards the sustainability of this centre. As such, it is highly commendable and appreciated.

• **ESTEEMED GUESTS;**
• **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

The Namibia Training Authority remains deeply committed to supporting the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology in terms of improving its competitiveness and further fostering its expansion and growth.

NIMT and several other private and public training institutions recently benefitted substantially from the Namibia Training Authority’s cooperation with one of our biggest donor partners - the Millennium Challenge Account-Namibia.

Under this cooperation, NIMT received a training grant of about six-comma-five million Namibia dollars for the training of about 300 trainees in various occupation areas and a further capacity grant of about five-million Namibia dollars towards the procurement of training equipment and tools.

Let me conclude by reassuring you that the Namibia Training Authority will continue its support to the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology to ensure that QUALITY continues to be put at the heart of the valuable vocational education and training services it provides to our trainees, our communities, our regions and our country at large.

I thank you.