WELCOMING REMARKS BY ACTING CEO OF THE NAMIBIA TRAINING AUTHORITY, ANNA ESTER NGHIPONDOKA, AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE PROMOTION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ProVET) PROJECT

TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL 2013 / 11:00-13:00 am.
SAFARI HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE, WINDHOEK.
On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Namibia Training Authority, I welcome you to this official launch of the Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (ProVET) Project.

The Namibia Training Authority is honoured by your acceptance of our invitation and we are indeed privileged to host you today.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

Allow me to share some background information on the establishment of the Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (ProVET) Project.

Our country’s National Human Resources Plan has identified a definite and clear national need for skills upliftment and development. In responding to this need, the Namibian government negotiated and signed a Technical Agreement with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in November 2011 to support projects to be designed in support of:

• Vocational Education and Training in general;
• Vocational Education and Training in agriculture; and
• Strengthening institutional development and management capacities in the road sector.

Coupled with clear and urgent directives from the Ministry of Education to aggressively expand the Vocational Education and Training sector and bring about more training opportunities, the Namibia Training Authority as the custodian of the Vocational Education and Training sector, took the lead in the formulation and implementation of this project: Promotion of Vocational Education and Training in Namibia (ProVET), which was formalised under an Implementation Agreement signed between the NTA and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).

The German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, through the GIZ, funds the project, while its execution is being conducted by a team of seasoned long-term experts, provided by a consortium of companies, led by Integration International Management Consultants GmbH.
The Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (ProVET) Project project has four distinct components that address specific subject areas:

- Component 1 deals with improvement of the quality of the VET system;
- Component 2 focuses on improved training capacities in the agriculture sector;
- Component 3 focuses on improved training capacities in sustainable economic development, with special emphasis on metalwork and related small and medium enterprises; and
- Component 4 deals with improved training capacities in the transport and related services sector.

The ProVET team took up their duties at the Namibia Training Authority in October 2012. Their commitment has already seen this dedicated five-member team completing the inception phase of this project, which was designed to understand the needs, actors and initiatives in the areas of interest and to then propose project plans and activities for discussion, validation and implementation.

They are now continuing in earnest in working in concert with NTA staff and stakeholders. I am proud to say that they have been successfully integrated into the work of the NTA to support our programmes and activities for successful and sustainable increases in the quality and quantity of skilled Namibian graduates.

The ProVET project is currently in its first phase of 2½ years which will conclude in early 2015 with a very real chance of being extended for a further 18 months. The overall agreement with the German Government governing this programme is scheduled to last nine years which is a significant period.

**DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES.**

The Namibia Training Authority has recently embarked on a new strategic path towards growing Vocational Education and Training in our country. Indeed, our new five-year Strategic Plan is driven by five main key focus areas, which are:

- Organisational Effectiveness;
- Funding;
- Regulation;
- Training and Related Services Provision; and
- The Collection of the Vocational Education and Training Levy;

In as much as we remain confident that the realization of these strategic objectives would enable us to raise the bar as far as the delivery of quality Vocational Education and Training is concerned, we also recognize that we cannot do this without the active involvement and participation of all our stakeholder partners, including our donors and international implementing partners.

Indeed, within this new strategic scope, we continue to consider strategic bilateral partnerships with our donors as integral to our quest to deliver accessible, equitable and quality Vocational Education and Training services.

**HONOURABLE MINISTER;**
**YOUR EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR HUCKMAN;**
**ESTEEMED GUESTS;**
**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

I have used the words "strategic" and "partner", which are bandied about a lot these days, often in
combination. Allow me to elaborate on what I deem is a true strategic partnership.

By definition, a partnership is a voluntary collaborative agreement between two or more parties in which all involved agree to work together to achieve a common objective. In doing so, partners commonly share risks, responsibilities, resources, competencies and the resulting benefits.

The general implication of the word "strategy" is long term, an arrangement that encompasses several aspects of an organization's work. So a strategic partner then is a person or group involved in a long-term commitment between two parties for the purpose of achieving specific goals.

What does it mean then to be a strategic partner? In my book, a strategic partnership is all about establishing a successful alliance - A relationship that must be win-win in order to be sustainable and mutually beneficial.

This relationship is a win-win relationship. You have given to our organization because you believe we are making a difference in a cause you care about. You value our work and want to support us in our quest to establish a vibrant and relevant Vocational Education and Training regime. Your gifts are investments in the work you expect us to accomplish.

HONOURABLE MINISTER;  
YOUR EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR HUCKMAN;  
ESTEEMED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

The Namibia Training Authority is committed towards the establishment of the Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (ProVET) Project as a true strategic partnership between us and our international donor and implementing partners. As such, allow me to acknowledge and thank our donor and implementing partners for their active involvement and commitment to this initiative:

We are highly appreciative of this meaningful collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany, our development partner and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ); and Integration International Management Consultants as our implementing partners.

Your generous financial and technical support have made this project a reality and I am confident that through your sustained and continued involvement, the Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (ProVET) Project will make a significant contribution to our strategic efforts to establish a vibrant and robust Vocational Education and Training sector in our country.

Allow me also at this juncture to thank the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Roads Contractor Company for their full and active participation in the Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (ProVET) Project, thus far. Our collaboration thus far represents what public-public partnerships should be all about in sharing and transferring technical skills and expertise between public offices.

HONOURABLE MINISTER;  
YOUR EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR HUCKMAN;  
ESTEEMED GUESTS;  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
In conclusion, allow me to highlight that the launch of the Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (ProVET) Project today marks a significant milestone for the Namibia Training Authority in our quest to establish a vibrant and relevant Vocational Education and Training regime.

We are delighted that you can share in this momentous occasion.

I thank you.