SPEECH OF
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
THE NAMIBIA TRAINING AUTHORITY
MARIA NANGOLO-RUKORO
AT HANDOVER OF TEXTBOOKS
TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES.

EMBARGO: March 5th 2012, 15:00.

NTA Village, Rand Street, Khomasdal, Windhoek.
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;
MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA.

Good Afternoon

History teaches us that a quality education is the key to a better life and a stronger nation. The equation is simple. When we look at countries that have rapidly and sustainably developed in recent years by transforming their economies, raising families out of poverty and improving the quality of life, education is the common denominator.

The President of the United States of America, Barack Obama has said, “In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity—it is a prerequisite”. This is not idle speculation. There is ample evidence that investment in education pays great dividends and every dollar spent teaching children and youth is money well spent.

The Namibia Training Authority is and remains a partner in the Namibian Government’s continued investment to improve educational quality and give tomorrow’s employees and leaders the tools they need to succeed and build a more prosperous nation for all.

Today, the NTA celebrates a milestone in this partnership. As its Chief Executive Officer, I am very pleased to hand over exactly 7 590 (seven-thousand five-hundred and ninety) textbooks to our Vocational Training Centres today. The monetary value of this consignment amounts to slightly more than three-million Namibia dollars and include Level 1, 2 and 3 textbooks for the following vocational occupations and trades:

- Auto-Electrics;
- Joinery and Cabinetmaking;
- Bricklaying and Plastering;
- Hospitality and Tourism;
- English and

- Auto-Mechanics;
- Plumbing;
- Welding and Metalwork;
- Entrepreneurship;
- Mathematics.
These textbooks can be considered one of the most important tool in ensuring that training conducted by the Vocational Training Centres in the country is relevant to the needs of our local industries. The NTA has committed itself to develop and make available learning materials that are aligned to unit standards set for our industries. And by handing over these textbooks today, we demonstrate that we remain committed and dedicated to our resolve to make quality Vocational Education and Training accessible and equitable to all.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS; LADIES AND GENTLEMEN; MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA.

The delivery of these textbooks was preceded by an intensive exercise aimed at introducing new and improved teaching and learning materials as Namibia’s Vocational Education and Training curricula changes with the times.

It is the NTA’s mandate to develop unit standards for various industries as per industry specific requirements to ensure quality training outcomes. When we started with this process in early 2011, we identified a critical shortage of experienced writers to produce good quality training manuals as one of our biggest obstacles. A Curriculum Review Workshop in June that same year recommended that training manuals be reviewed, and where applicable, replaced with relevant textbooks. A follow-up technical workshop with representatives from specific occupations and instructors from various training providers, identified textbooks relevant to the training requirements in specific skill and occupation areas and in relation to the relevant unit standards. The textbooks they recommended are the textbooks the NTA hands over to our Vocational Training Centres today.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS; LADIES AND GENTLEMEN; MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA.

Allow me to call on our colleagues at the state owned Vocational Training Centres to distribute these textbooks to our trainees. Please, for the sake of Namibia’s children, I urge you to remain vigilant and ensure that each and every book is used for its intended purpose. Namely, developing the vocational
knowledge and skills so urgently needed for our country’s development. Also rest assured that the NTA continues to be your partner in the regulation of quality and relevant Vocational Education and Training. Your challenges are our challenges. Your success is our success.

Finally, a message for our trainees:

In October 1869, when the great American educationalist, Charles Wiliam Elliot made his inaugural address as President of Harvard University, he said: “Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.” You are the real beneficiaries of these books. Read them. Study them. Make them your friends. Remember, not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers.

I thank you.

END