REMARKS BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NAMIBIA TRAINING AUTHORITY MARIA NANGOLO-RUKORO AT CEREMONY TO HAND OVER TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES.

EMBARGO: APRIL 16TH 2012, 09:30.

NTA VILLAGE HALL, Rand Street, Khomasdal, Windhoek.
Good Morning

On behalf of the Namibia Training Authority, a warm welcome to this handing over ceremony of tools and equipment to the Vocational Training Centres. Today, the Namibia Training Authority celebrates another milestone in our continuous quest to deliver quality Vocational Education and Training.

Vocational Education and Training underpins the fundamental values of society – equity, justice, gender equality, non-discrimination, social responsibility, and participation. VET makes individuals employable. It allows them greater access to decent work and good jobs to escape poverty and marginalization.

But, we can only develop our skills base by investing in the establishment of an enabling environment at our VTCs that are aligned with current and future industry needs.

To illustrate, allow me to quote the famous Italian-American businessman, Nelson Jackson, who said: “You can't expect to meet the challenges of TODAY, with YESTERDAY’s tools and expect to be in business TOMORROW.”

It goes without saying that for the NTA to establish such an enabling environment for quality training at our vocational training centres, we need to equip these centres with tools and equipment that will add true value to the overall training process.

The provision of tools and equipment is also aligned with our overall mandate of ensuring access; equity and quality in Vocational Education and Training. This an objective shared by the NTA and the Ministry of Education.

Allow me to elaborate:
An allocation for the procurement of tools and equipment for the former state-owned VTCs amounting to approximately 20 million dollars was made available through the ETSIP programme in 2010. In January 2011, the NTA along with external technical experts developed the specifications for additional tools and equipment for the various occupation areas.

In October last year the Minister of Education, Dr. Abraham Iyambo handed over a first consignment of workshop machines and equipment to the tune of N$ 19 500,000.00 to four Vocational Training Centers – Okakarara VTC; Zambezi VTC; Rundu VTC and Valombola VTC.

This year, the NTA has procured a second consignment of general tools and hand power tools to benefit even more trainees in more centers. Companies submitted tenders in November last year and the following suppliers were identified: Huester Machine Tools; Cymot; Pupkewitz Caterers; Schoemans Office Equipment and Windhoek Tool Centre.

The VTCs that stand to benefit from this second procurement phase are:

- Eenhana VTC
  - N$ 618,450.27
- Nakayale VTC
  - N$ 562,128.55
- Rundu VTC
  - N$ 2,912,130.20
- Valombola VTC
  - N$ 2,492,205.21
- Zambezi VTC
  - N$ 1,255,154.97
- Okakarara VTC
  - N$ 2,545,427.39

The total cost amounted this time to N$ 10,385,496.59.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

The capacity of any country to attract appropriate and relevant investment is dependent on the pool of skills available. But the development of such a pool of skills is never so simple or easy. The NTA has to date incurred heavy expenses to develop curricula, train staff and equip centres for training in specialized subjects, which generally cost three times more than academic courses.

And it is for this reason that I urge the various Centre Managers to take ownership and ensure that the tools and equipment we hand over today, are used for the intended purpose: That is to add value to the overall training process and ensure that
trainees receive quality training.

In conclusion, allow me to share a quote by one of history’s greatest figures: Author, Orator and British Prime Minister during World War II, Sir Winston Churchill, who said “We shall neither fail nor falter; We shall not weaken nor tire; Give us the tools and we will finish the job”. We have handed you the tools. Go back and provide quality training to our trainees. Go back and finish the job.

Rest assured that the NTA will continue its assistance to your respective centres to ensure that programmes are continuously expanded and the best training environments are established and maintained.

I thank you.

END