



KEYNOTE REMARKS BY

**HONOURABLE ESTER ANNA NGHIPONDOKA, MP
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE**

AT THE

**THE DIGITAL SCHOOL LAUNCH AND GRADUATION
CEREMONY**

Date: Monday, 12 August 2024

Venue: NIED Namdeb Hall

Time: 10h00 to 14H00

- **Hon. James Uerikua, Governor of Otjozondjupa Region,**
- **Her Worship Her Worship Beatrice Kotungondo, The Mayor of Okahandja**
- **Ms. Sanet L. Steenkamp, Executive Director of MoEAC**
- **Dr. Alfred Van Kent, Executive Director: Ministry Of Higher Education, Training And Innovation**
- **Dr. Audrin Mathe, Executive Director: Ministry Of Information And Communication Technology**
- **Dr. Licky Erastus, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director: MTC**
- **Dr. Stanely Shanapinda, Chief Executive Officer: Telecom Namibia**
- **Vice Chancellors of Namibia University Of Science and Technology, University of Namibia, International University of Management**
- **Acting CEO: NAMCOL**
- **Mr Tiwonge Machiwenyika, Officer in Charge: World Food Programme, Namibia**
- **Dr. Menghestab Haile, Former Regional Director: World Food Programme, Southern Africa Bureau**
- **Ms. Saima Shaanika, Regional Bureau, Johannesburg, World Food Program**
- **Dr. Waleed Ai-Ali, Senior Advisor: Mohammed Bin Rashid Ai: Maktoum Global Initiatives And Digital Schools**
- **All Regional Directors of Education, Arts & Culture present,**
- **Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture Officials present,**
- **Dear Digital Teachers,**
- **Dear Invited Guests,**

- **Members of the Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Director of Ceremonies,

Today marks a significant milestone in our journey towards transforming education in Namibia. We are gathered here to celebrate the launch of The Digital School Pilot Project, a pioneering initiative made possible through the invaluable support of the United Arab Emirates' Digital School and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we embark on this transformative journey. This project, which also extends its benefits to our neighboring nations of Angola, Zambia, Lesotho, Madagascar, and South Africa, represents a beacon of hope and progress in our shared pursuit of educational excellence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One school per region has been identified to be the digital pilot school, with the exception of Khomas and Hardap Region, which each have two schools. A total of 16 schools will benefit from this project, with one of the schools in Hardap serving as a resource school. The schools are:

- Bethanie Primary School **(Karas)**
- Tataleni Primary School **(Erongo)**
- D.D Guibeb Primary School **(Hardap)**
- Nkurenkuru Combined School **(Kavango West)**
- Groot Aub Primary School **(Khomas)**
- Namutuni Primary School **(Khomas)**
- Klein Aub Primary School **Hardap)**

- Elias Amxab Combined School (**Kunene**)
- Hafyenanye Primary School (**Ohangwena**)
- Gunichas R.C Primary School (**Omaheke**)
- John Shekudja Combined School (**Omusati**)
- Shinime Shiivula Primary School (**Oshana**)
- Onyaanya Primary School (**Oshikoto**)
- Eden Primary Schools (**Otjozondjupa**)
- Ngweze Primary School (**Zambezi**)
- Kake Combined School (**Kavango East**)

The objectives of The Digital School (TDS) Pilot Project are ambitious and far-reaching, and include:

1. **Promoting Digital Education**
2. **Building a Model for Digital Transformation**
3. **Empowering Students**
4. **Enhancing Teachers' Digital Skills**
5. **Creating Digital Learning Environments**
6. **Developing a National Strategy**

TDS and WFP will coordinate closely with the Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture, and other relevant stakeholders throughout the project cycle. Also, coming to this point, extensive consultations with MoEAC occurred during the project's design phase, including discussions on areas of intervention and schools' selection. This ensured that all project activities adhere to Namibia's educational framework, curriculum standards, and regulatory requirements.

Furthermore, TDS will maintain open communication channels with targeted schools, the Ministry, and the field officer, to effectively address any emerging issues or

significant challenges. Bilateral coordination will also occur between TDS, the implementing partner, and the content preparation party, to facilitate the exchange of recommendations or suggestions for refining digitized content.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Technology in education is not just a tool; it is a catalyst for making learning more interactive, engaging, and effective. With technology, learners can access a wealth of information, making education both fun and impactful.

I am happy to announce that Digital Transformation is a key focus of the 2022 National Conference on Education Implementation Plan (2023-2030). The Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture is committed to this vision, with plans to roll out ICT devices to schools, including fully furnished computer labs and interactive touch screens for newly added Advanced Subsidiary Schools. Furthermore, moving forward, the Ministry plans to roll out Smart Televisions to schools, also targeting Primary Schools. This commitment underscores our dedication to evolving with the times and equipping our learners and teachers with the best tools for success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are also celebrating a special group of individuals—our graduating teachers. To the 47 teachers who have completed their online digital training: Congratulations! Your dedication and commitment to embracing digital skills will play a crucial role in advancing education within your classrooms and schools. Your journey

does not end here. I encourage you to use your newly acquired skills to not only enhance your own teaching practices, but also to share your knowledge with your colleagues.

Dear Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Digital School and the World Food Programme, for their unwavering support and positive contributions to Namibia's digital journey. We are excited to continue this partnership and are eager to work together to achieve our shared goals.

As we move forward, I call upon Development Partners, friendly countries, and both the public and private sectors, to join us in this noble endeavor. Your support will be instrumental in transforming education in Namibia, and ensuring a brighter future for all our learners.

Together, let us embrace this digital revolution and pave the way for a more inclusive, innovative, and empowered educational landscape.

I thank you.