



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNOR

THE OFFICIAL WELCOMING REMARKS DELIVERED BY THE KHOMAS REGIONAL GOVERNOR HONOURABLE GOVERNOR LAURA MCLEOD – KATJIRUA AT THE LAUNCH OF THE ICT TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN AFRICA PROJECT HELD ON THE 12TH MARCH 2025 , WEDNESDAY 9H00 AT AREBUSCH TRAVEL LODGE IN WINDHOEK , KHOMAS REGION.

- **DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES**
- **HONOURABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE ESTER –ANNA NGHIPONDOKA**
- **HONOURABLE REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES COUNCILORS**
- **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, MR. GERHARD VRIES MINISTRY HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION , MR. AUNDRIN MATHE ,MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**
- **OUR RESPECTED ESTEEMED GUESTS FROM UNESCO**
- **THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (NTA, UNAM, NUST ,IUM, NAMCOL)**
- **REGIONAL EDUCATION DIRECTORS**
- **REPRESENTATIVES FROM NCHE, NANTU, NANSO, TUN ,NIED,MTC AND NATCOM**
- **RESPECTED TRADITIONAL LEADERS**
- **RESPECTED COMMUNITY LEADERS**
- **CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRIES**
- **RESPECTED SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS**
- **MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA PRESENT**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**
- **ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED**

Good morning, everyone!

Director of ceremonies, from the onset let me not withhold the gratitude and appreciation of the entire Khomas Region community for the honour of hosting this launch and indeed my office to witness and officiate here today.

Director of Ceremonies, it is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this important occasion which marks the official launch of the **ICT Transforming Education in Africa** project here in the Republic of Namibia. I want to acknowledge all the distinguished guests, leaders in education, policymakers from the different line ministries, and, of course, the representatives from our different tertiary institutions, teacher unions, ICT industry leaders and our invaluable development partners. This inclusive representation speaks volume and demonstrate a clear sign of how committed we are to play our part in the journey of transforming our education towards inclusion and quality.

In addition, on a very special note a special word of welcome and gratitude will go to our esteemed guests from the (**UNESCO / UNESCO-Korean-Funds-in-Trust (KFIT) partnership**), whose support has been instrumental in making this initiative a reality. Your presence today signifies the strong collaboration between Namibia and UNESCO in advancing digital transformation in education.

We are here today because we recognize the transformative power of **ICT in education**. This project is not just about technology—it is about **creating equitable access to quality learning opportunities** for all Namibian learners. It is about equipping our teachers with the necessary skills to **integrate ICT effectively into their**

teaching, ensuring our learners develop the digital competencies needed for the future.

The significance of today's launch cannot be overstated. It marks the transition from planning to action and to move towards implementing a **harmonized digital learning platform**, enhancing teacher and learner capacity, and strengthening ICT policies within the education sector. This project aligns with Namibia's **Vision 2030** and global goals, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive and effective digital learning.

Dear education and ICT fraternity. I always say and will repeat today here to reassure you that as a region we remain ready and supportive to your call of transforming our education to be competitive to global challenges to address the plight of the Namibian child and the interest of the Namibian child always remain a priority in all our development endeavors.

Director of Ceremonies and dear delegates, remember that they say and I quote "**Digital transformation is a journey, not a destination.**" and "**Digital transformation is not about technology - it's about change.**" It simply means we are gathering here today to launch the kick off of a very important undertaking which is not only about adopting a technology but a test to our commitment and willingness to adapt to changes as a nation.

Having said that, **director of ceremonies**, allow me to give you two of my favourite quotes from Paulo Ceolho and Martin Luther King Jr as the foundation of my message for today and I quote "**when we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change, at such a moment, there is no point in pretending that**

nothing has happened or in saying that we are not yet ready. The challenge will not wait, life does not look back” Paulo Coelho.

“Our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change” Martin Luther King Jr.

The concise interpretation of these two favourite powerful quotes says: life has a continuous challenge on us and our survival depends on our ability to stay awake, vigilant and adjust to new ideas to face the challenge of change.

Your participation is crucial in ensuring that the objectives we set forth today translate into meaningful impact in our Namibian classrooms. Last but not the least let me on our behalf welcome our honourable Minister Education, arts and Culture and extend our collective gratitude to her. The continuous passion of the ministry for driving meaningful change in the education sector is something we should all admire, and we are grateful for the leadership.

Dear respected government leaders, your presence here today demonstrates the unwavering commitment of our government to education as a national priority. May every passing day refill the entire Namibian people and its leadership with that desired extra wisdom, conviction and

determination for education to remain our national priority for generations to come.

Finally, once again on behalf of the Organisers of the event and the entire Khomas Community, welcome to the official launch of the ICT education transforming project and let us officially begin this journey of transformation together and pull together in the same right direction.

Thank you, and welcome once again!