

PoN launches student laptop initiative



TECHNO SAVVY: A laptop was given to each of the first five students who entered their names for the Student Laptop Initiative. From l - r; Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the Polytechnic, Mr. R.S. Hoeseb, Ms. M.P. Sitali, Mr. S.K. Iyambo, Ms. R. Grobler, Ms. T.D.L. Pohamba, and Hon. Stanley Simaata, Deputy Minister of ICT.

WINDHOEK - The Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN) launched its student laptop initiative on Thursday, 3 March 2011, to enable students to buy computers at an affordable price.

This year, the PoN will make available about 1000 laptops to its stu-

dents through this initiative at a cost of almost N\$ 4.5 million.

In a speech read on his behalf by his Deputy, Hon. Stanley Simataa, the Minister of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), Hon. Joel Kaapanda said, in order to bridge the gap that existed be-

tween the old school of education and the new way of learning, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) should be an integral part of the education system.

This must start from pre-primary, through to tertiary/higher education, he noted.

"Today, it is imperative that we train graduates to become a workforce that is able to display appropriate levels of information literacy. Information literacy provides the ability to locate, identify and evaluate relevant information in order to make an informed decision," he stressed.

Kaapanda said the PoN's phenomenal achievements are all driven by new paradigms, with an exceptional commitment to and passion for ICT.

This is evidenced by its adoption of technically advanced teaching and learning resources such as high-tech lecture halls, multiple computer, engineering, science and simulation laboratories with the latest being online research, as well as teaching and learning support systems.

He said Namibia, as a country, would soon reap the benefits of the West Africa Cable System (WACS) Project that would guarantee sufficient bandwidth for independent, more affordable and faster Internet connectivity.

According to the ICT Minister, this initiative would upgrade the level of computer literacy amongst graduates, thus affording them excellent reception in the job market.

He further appealed to the private sector to augment the PoN's efforts because in the end, they are the ones to benefit from quality education and training interventions.

Sustained private sector support would enable the PoN to equip 60 per cent of their student population with their own laptops by 2013, as stated in their Third Strategic Plan.

Students can buy the laptops at a cost of N\$ 4600 from PoN, with four service vouchers costing N\$ 30 each, as well as a three-year hardware warranty.

The laptops are equipped with Ubuntu software and Internet services. (NAMPA)

Namibians enjoyed UB40

WINDHOEK - The organisers of the UB40 For Hope Benefit Concert have described the three-day shows at the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium as a huge success.

Tania Ward said that the show was well-attended, when approached by this reporter.

"This is our first show that we have organised, and it was a huge success. We are very proud of the Namibian fans who supported such a noble cause," she said.

Close to 4 000 UB40 fans attended the first Show.

All proceeds from the charity show will be used to build a Hope Village childcare facility in Rehoboth, some 80 kilometres south of the Capital.

A variety of local bands showcased their talents during the event and included Penilane, Nadine, Dozi, Jericho, Gal Level, Stefan Ludik, The Upambians, Faizel and Elemotho.

Elvis Blue, winner of the 2010 South African Idols competition,

South African rock artist Karen Zoid and renowned singer and songwriter Winnie Khumalo also performed.

UB40 are a British reggae band formed in 1978 in Birmingham, UK. The band has placed more than 50 singles in the United Kingdom singles charts, and has also achieved considerable international success.

One of the world's best-selling music artists, UB40 have sold over 70 million records. Their hits include, amongst others, 'Food For Thought', 'Red Red Wine' and 'Can't Help Falling in Love'.

Hope Village was established in 2004 and to start with, four children's homes were built in the Capital to accommodate boys and girls, as well as babies and toddlers who are infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, with no family to support them.

(NAMPA)

A profile from afar

Nick Aston

England. Namibia. England. Namibia. For the best part of a year, these thoughts trickled through my head. They kept me awake on countless nights. Just where did the future of a 27-year-old British journalist lie?

My heart begged me to stay in England. As much as I'd complain (and complain again) about the astronomical cost of

living, there was a sense of security that stretched beyond the apartment I called home in the south of England. Namibia was another world to me - a fascinating world, but still, a world so far away.

My head screamed "GO". As a child, I'd moved countless times across the UK - South to North. North to South. I'd even been torn away from Manchester, my spiritual

home. The reality though, was that Manchester would always be with me. Whether it was Old Trafford, the Peak District, or simply old friends, I'd always find some way of returning.

At the same time, Namibia was also home. Or rather, a second home.

My family moved to Windhoek around three years ago, and I never looked back. For me though, I knew I'd made the right decision the moment I stepped off the plane at Hosea Kutako."

ment I stepped off the plane at Hosea Kutako International Airport. A warming welcome hit me - or to be precise, around thirty-two degrees of sunlight, and a fair few hugs from the parents!

Rain, rush and sky-high rates? No thanks! Meerks, mouth-watering meat and mountains are far more appealing.