

Youth create employment opportunities

A large number of young people last week displayed the results of their efforts to create employment opportunities for themselves and other Namibian youth.

On display were the results of a project known as 'Youth for Youth,' initiated by the Namibia Business Innovation Institute (NBII), the School of Computing and Informatics and RLabs Namibia, which aims to assist Poly students and other youth to create possible projects with which they can generate an income by using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Lisa Onwordi, Young Talents Project Manager at NBII, said the project was launched because the Institute believes that the youth are one of the most precious resources for national socio-economic and technology development in Namibia. "The youth hold a pivotal place as catalysts of true change in our society and they have an important role to play at the forefront of change and innovation in Namibia," Onwordi said.

The projects were introduced during a formal ceremony held at the NBII Café Wakey Wakey in Windhoek, where Mandela Kapere, Executive Chairperson of the National Youth Council of Namibia (NYC), applauded the 'Youth for Youth' initiative. He also made a plea to adults to consult with the youth before making any decisions that will affect them. "It is important that we include the young people in our discussions about employment challenges," he said.

Kapere said that young people have started to express their discontent with the direction the world is going, and that in Namibia there is a sense of urgency among the youth, as evidenced by the current land issue that speaks to that urgency. "It is therefore important that young people should



Marlon Parker, Country Co-ordinator: RLabs Namibia; Nelson Haulamba; Dr Anicia Peters, Dean: School of Computing and Informatics; Mandela Kapere (NYC); and Dr Eino Mvula, CEO of the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), attended the display by the youth.

be at the centre of our discussions. Their views must be considered because young people are more likely to be affected by what we decide to do. We need to put them at the centre of social innovation, especially in this era when we are lost for new ideas," Kapere said. He pledged that the NYC would partner

with RLabs Namibia and any other institution that is interested in making a contribution to the youth's issues.

Young people who are interested in obtaining more information, may contact Lisa Onwordi at lonwordi@polytechnic.edu.na or telephone (061) 207 2046.

Front: Ambassador Rofina N. Chikava (Republic of Zimbabwe); Prof Tjama Tjivikua; High Commissioner Claurinah Tshenolo Modise (Republic of Botswana).
Back: High Commissioner Sylvia Chalikosa (Republic of Zambia); Nadia Martins, representing Ambassador Manuel Alexandre Duarte Rodrigues of the Republic of Angola; Ambassador Anastas Kaboba Kasongo Wa-Kimba (DRC).



International Education Day growing

The Department of International Relations (IR) celebrated International Education Day by hosting various events on campus last week.

The Poly annually commemorates IED on 16 September. This year the event programme included top level officials from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Resident Ambassadors and High Commissioners, a debate and a public dialogue.

The IED activities kicked-off with Poly Rector, Prof Tjama Tjivikua, hosting SADC Resident Ambassadors for a meeting, followed by a tour of the institution. Prof Tjivikua briefed the Ambassadors on the Poly's activities, Schools and Centres and employees from SADC and SADC students studying at the institution.

This was followed by a debate between the Poly and the University of Namibia (UNAM) Debating Teams. The motion had a distinctly international flavour, and was hotly contested by the opposing sides. The UNAM team emerged triumphant and walked away with the IED Debate Trophy.

The Department also hosted an infor-

mation sharing session to raise awareness on internationalisation and to promote study-abroad opportunities for Poly students. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) participated in this event which saw a number of students walk away with prizes for correctly answering questions about the IR Department.

The main event of the IED activities was the Public Dialogue. Former Namibian Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr Kaire Mbuende, presented his reflections on internationalisation and education for global citizenship. The event also included presentations by soon-to-be and previous exchange students on their study-abroad experiences and expectations.

Commenting on the IED activities, IR Department Director, Dr Marius Kudumo, said, "We are happy with the 2015 IED events. The Department has received positive feedback on the activities, showing that internationalisation is being appreciated as a strategic objective of the institution."

Poly staff return from Ghana

Two Poly staff members recently returned from Accra in Ghana where they represented the Poly at a conference on University-Business Partnerships convened by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Jospat Mukabi, Lecturer in the Informatics Department, and Martha Namutuwa from the Cooperative Education Unit, shared their experiences in a high-level political dialogue event on the conversion of Polytechnics to Technical Universities. The event was attended by officials from Government, Ghanaian Polytechnics, German Universities of Applied Sciences, African partners of DAAD and the private sector.

Mukabi also attended a separate German-African network workshop where he made a presentation on the current status of a Data Science (Big Data Analytics) Tri-lateral Project in which the Poly's Informatics Department, Flensburg University of

Applied Sciences (Germany) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya) are involved.

Namutuwa made a presentation on a 'Voice of Business Project' involving the Poly, Vaal University of Technology (South Africa) and Wismar University of Applied Sciences (Germany). The 'Voice of Business' Project focuses on developing an entrepreneurial leadership short course geared towards preparing students with employability competencies.

The two staff members said that the lessons they learnt during their visit will greatly contribute to the future curriculum review and development activities of the Poly.



Jospat Mukabi and Martha Namutuwa, are pictured second and fifth from right respectively, with other participants in the dialogue in Accra.