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Getting education right

'We will try our best'

By Dr Abraham Iyambo

The year 2011 must be a year of recommitment, better education outcomes, mass drive and mobilization. For this we need stamina, great wisdom, grace and visionary spirit. Let us vow to do more than before. Let us drop old bad habits and replace them with renewed positive ones.

The year 2010 was hectic with ups and downs. It was a year of tough times, daunting challenges, but also of amazing opportunities, accomplishments and blessings.

For the year 2011, we have two options. One is to remain hidden in a thick shadow, doubting and not trusting ourselves. The other option is to believe in ourselves, and unleash our hidden potential. Yes, the year will be busy, bumpy and exciting.

We must rise and not limit ourselves. We can go as far as our will power, our belief and mind leads us. We must fight

pessimism, negativity and be optimistic. Namibia is massively blessed, not only with resources under and above its soil but also is significantly blessed with valuable assets, you the people who are gathered here.

The time is now to be open and honest with each other. I propose only three principles: i) deliver, ii) deliver, iii) deliver. I believe that we have the will, faith and focus to deliver.

I am proud that great and plausible strides have been achieved in the transformation of The Namibian Education System since independence. I salute and thank the Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Permanent Secretaries and all who preceded us for an excellent job in laying the foundation.

Our education system is on a long journey and it has now reached the cross roads. The decision on which direction and pace we will go is entirely in our hands.

Need of quality products from the education system and Vision 2030

We need a seamless system of education premised upon pedagogy of equality and equity of opportunity. An education system to serve, to be respected, to create and preserve what is good and noble.

We ought to ask questions about our commitment, available resources, discernible challenges and stumbling blocks and particularly the question about what kind of a PERSON comes out of our system. Education is the most

valuable asset one can have. But, education is not an asset if it is not quality education.

The education system must produce quality products who understand who they are, where they originate and where they want to be in terms of the nation's great vision and goals. Products who are ready to bear the torch of the nation, un-selflessly, un-supervised and un-afraid. We need a serious inventory, to pinpoint possible misfits and disconnects before they become a system.

We need urgent transformation of our Education System from the bottom to the top. Transformation in education is unending, it is continuous! We started at independence. It is a response to different times and



Dr. Abraham Iyambo



Dr. David Namwandi

realities. Curriculum must change with time. We need a system that is centered around the need of learners and students. Education system that develops restless curiosity and engages learners/students.

Education is the terrain to

tackle issues of real life of bread and butter.

To realize Vision 2030, we must first understand and appreciate the parts that we in the education sector must chase

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Not just an architect or mayor. Oshakati Mayor, Ben Kathindi, displaying his pounding skills to the surprise of these kids. Photo by Asser Nünda.

Nam to net in N\$320 million on cement per year

Ohorongo to export 300 000 tons of cement annually

By Staff Reporter

The newly opened Ohorongo Cement Factory near Otavi is expected to export over 300 000 tons of cement every year, generating US\$45 million each year for Namibia, which is over N\$320 million at the current exchange rate.

The N\$2,5 billion factory was officially opened by President Hifikepunye Pohamba on Wednesday. It currently employs 200 people, but at full capacity, it will employ over 300 people.

Many Namibians have ex-



President Hifikepunye Pohamba

pressed delight at the construction of the factory. With the first bags of cement now rolling off

the production line, many people now expect the price of cement to drop significantly.

"This is a welcome relief," said one person working for a construction company in Windhoek. "Cement is very expensive in Namibia, unrealistically expensive. I have always wondered why. We will see what happens now."

President Pohamba was upbeat in pointing out the benefits which would accrue from the factory, especially in terms of housing in both towns and rural areas where construction of

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