

# Germany donates equipment worth N\$1.2m

The School of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences (SNRSS) recently received a donation of technical equipment worth N\$1,2 million from the German government that will boost the Poly's ability to gather and process high resolution spatial data.

The equipment was donated to the Poly through the 'Support to Land Reform Project' run by the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ), the German government's implementing agency for development assistance. The donation includes sophisticated equipment such as a fixed-wing surveying drone, high-performance computers and high resolution cameras that will be used for aerial mapping of small areas.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Poly Rector, Prof Tjama Tjivikua, emphasised the practical applica-



The technical equipment donated to the Poly by the German government.

tion of the equipment and its critical potential for planning and monitoring the implementation of Namibia's flexible Land Tenure Act. "This new technology will facilitate a pro-poor approach to land delivery, thus giving a possibility on the whole continuum of land tenure rights from starter title to free hold," Tjivikua said.

The Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy to Namibia, Ulrich Kinne, reflected on the cooperative partnership between Germany and Namibia, through which Germany supports educational development initiatives in Namibia, and said: "Together, we work in a true partnership to achieve the objectives of Vision 2030 and the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) to overcome social inequalities, improve education, create job opportunities and build a basis for prosperity for the Namibian people."

The GIZ Director for Namibia, Albert Engel, said the 'Support to Land Reform Project' supports the Ministry of Land Reform and other important institutions in the lands sector, such as the Poly, in carrying out transparent and fair land reform and establishing an efficient land governance system in Namibia.



From left: Prof Tjama Tjivikua, Albert Engel, Dr Nashilongo Shivute, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Land Reform, and Ulrich Kinne with the fixed-wing surveying drone that was part of the technical equipment donated to the Poly. The drone was manufactured in Namibia.

The equipment will allow the SNRSS and two research centres, the Earth Observation and Satellite Applications Research and Training Centre (EOSA-RTC) and the Integrated Management Institute (ILMT), to conduct applied research and develop skills and capacity in the fields of natural resources management and spatial planning.

## Students in drive to prevent crime

The Polytechnic Students Against Crime (PolySAC) recently visited several high schools to campaign for the prevention of crime through educating the academic communities of students and staff on crime related issues.

The club is not only confined to the Poly campus, but aims to reach out to many other vulnerable groups in society by presenting different educational programmes at various schools in Namibia. Elifas Helao, President of PolySAC, said the purpose of the visits is to educate, raise awareness and encourage learners to participate in efforts to prevent crime in their own communities.

He said the Rehoboth High School was one of the schools visited where he told the learners: "The PolySAC feels it has a responsibility, when one learns of these incidents of Gender Based Violence, to teach

people in the community that the peaceful resolution of a problem is a sustainable way to solve every problem we face. We therefore wish to encourage you to refuse to engage in violent activities."

He encouraged learners to start being responsible citizens by preventing and reporting crime or any other actions that are a danger to peace. Learners should participate in community policing and form similar clubs as the PolySAC, Men and Women Networks and the Neighbourhood Watch, he advised.

Hosea Hashili, the PolySAC representative for the School of Engineering, informed the learners that the Namibian society has lost the values and the bases on which it was founded. "Our society has turned into a scary jungle where even walking during broad daylight is not safe at all. Kids are being raped; kids are becoming victims or witnessing domestic violence at home," Hashili said.

The learners were also entertained with a drama organised by the PolySAC members on how crime is being committed, the consequences of crime and how to avoid themselves from being victims of crime as well as encouraging them to report crime.

The PolySAC plans to visit many other schools during the second semester of this academic year.



ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS: Learners of the Rehoboth High School bombarded representatives of the Polytechnic Students Against Crime (PolySAC) when the club visited the school recently.

## Four universities drive to improve energy supply

Delegates from the Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences in Germany recently visited the Poly Rector, Prof Tjama Tjivikua, for a briefing on a collaborative project that focusses on establishing a renewable energy research network in Southern Africa.

The 'Network of Excellence in Renewable Energy Technology for Development' (NEED) project is a collaborative effort between the Poly, the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), the University of Zambia (UNZA) and Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences that aims to create a research network in the field of renewable energies in Southern Africa. The NEED initiative forms part of the Intra-Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) mobility scheme and is funded by the European Union for a three-year period.

Representatives from the four higher education institutions recently met for a second NEED project meeting at the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre in the Erongo Region after which representatives from Ingolstadt University met with Tjivikua to brief him on the activities and objectives of the NEED Project.

The initiative aims to harness the resources of the project partners to establish structures for the development and sharing of technical know-how in the area of renewable energies. The NEED Project also serves as a platform to solicit the involvement of industry and governmental stakeholders. The development of dual study programmes at the partner institutions, and the pooling of research activities among the institutions in the field of renewable energies are core activities currently underway.

"This initiative comes at an opportune time, considering the predicted energy supply shortfall in the region," Tjivikua said.



Prof Tjama Tjivikua and Prof Wilfried Zörner of the Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt (THI) are pictured seated, with, from left: Victoria Shipanga (Poly); Sabine Kapfhamer (THI); Dr Samuel John (Poly); Dr Paul Chisale (Poly); Marie Hüneke (THI).