



**Remarks by albertus aochamub,
General Manager: Corporate Affairs of MTC
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT LAPTOP HANDOVER
Windhoek, 17 August 2009**

Director of Ceremony
Members of the IUM Management and Staff,
Ladies and Gentlemen of the media
Distinguished Invited Guests

Good morning

MTC is in the business of connecting not only people with people, but also in connecting people with information. Our recent advertising campaign focused on our ability to dream and realise those dreams if you choose to make the connection. We argue that nothing is impossible if you simply get access to information.

With this in mind, it is a befitting that we are presiding over the launch of a service that will aid students in connecting to the cyber world. With the world rapidly experiencing a Knowledge Revolution, it is important that the students at the IUM are equipped with future proof and most appropriate tools and skills needed to successfully compete in the more integrated global world of today.

Vision 2030 and ICT

Our collective vision for 2030 as a nation for the ICT sector states that:

- The ICT sector is economically the most significant sector in Namibia;

- Namibian-based ICT service companies are competitive players on the international markets;
- Namibia is exporting, to a large extent, tailor-made hard- and software worldwide using e-business.

These are our noble objectives for the future and it is at moments such as this morning that we constantly need to remind ourselves of the hard work that lies ahead and take stock of the progress we are making as we move forward into the future.

On a national level, there are very encouraging signs that we are headed in the right direction.

The creation of a single Ministry responsible for ICT was a laudable development worthy of note as we have always maintained. We also agree with Minister Kaapanda when he is quoted as saying that the next major challenge is to pass the draft Telecommunications Bill into law because the absence of the bill impacts the sector negatively. That single Act will provide the industry with the necessary certainty for present and future players.

Also in the education sector, we are seeing ICT and its role being centrally recognised. In terms of the ETSIP framework, IUM is expected to achieve the following objectives:

- Training and usage support for ICT Literacy
- ICT integration for educators
- ICT as an examinable subject
- Compulsory computer literacy training for all students

We invite all other Corporates in Namibia to respond positively to the call from IUM when requested to assist us in advancing our educational goals. No support is small or insignificant, they all add up to a major wave of change for our students, academics and staff in fundamental ways. Our students are still in dire poverty and corporate Namibia must come in a big way to assist the Namibian government.

As a parting thought, allow me to comment on the imminent Communications Bill and our expectations as mobile operators.

We expect:

1. That a competent management team will be put in place to management the affairs of our industry carefully. We certainly expect a team of men and women of high standards of integrity to be deployed in order to avoid a repeat of what we have seen recently. Information that operators provided in confidence to NCC was used in the public domain by a consultant of ICT Africa with no permission from the regulator to attack MTC unfairly.
2. That a robust regulator with real teeth will be set up to implement the Universal Service for all. We have to urgently address the gap between the urban and rural divides and the gap between the haves and the have-nots.
3. That all players will be eagerly awaiting Service and technology neutral licenses as soon as the bill is passed into law. That will level the playing field and give consumers the choices they desperately need.

Having bored you thoroughly, may I now announce this morning's support to IUM. We are availing 100 laptops with 3G/HSDPA devices to IUM students at a discounted price of **N\$3499,00 (inclusive of 3G device, free monthly data of 300 MB). One has to recharge with N\$50 monthly to get the free monthly as well.**

Of course students and faculty will be identified by IUM before we can activate usage on these machines as they are strictly for the benefit of students and faculty.

May I now invite Dr. Namwandi to make a couple of remarks.

I thank you all for your attention.