

20th Graduation Ceremony 2021



Monitronic Success College

SPEECH BY THE RECTOR

Dr Prof Daniel F Nyaungwa

Graduation Speech 2021-The pandemic did not destroy our spirits and talents

Page | 2

Honourable Dr Peya Mushelenga , the Chancellor of River Higher Institute of Technology

The Director of Administration Mrs Monica M Matti Nyaungwa

The Various Directors and Managers of Monitronic Success College here present

The Head of Centres of Windhoek Walvisbay, Ondangwa and Otjiwarongo

The representative of ApHEIN

Representatives for other institution of higher education IUM , UNAM, NUST, LINGUA etc

Mr Katulo , the Project Manager from NCHE

The representative of Both the NQA and

Dear Parents and Guardians

The most precious and omniportant – the graduates

Ladies and Gentlement

Good Morning !

At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic is largely under control in the republic, the republic of Namibia, but still an uncertainty at the global level, we are gathered here to mark a special graduation ceremony. This will be one that we will ever forget. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, some students and parents are unable to attend this particularly meaningful ceremony in person under these extraordinary circumstances. They can only join us through video link via our learners Management Systems, through facebook and twitter as well u-tube and we are live on NBC radio video link. However, I am sure that we are all equally thankful and excited at this moment. On behalf Monitronic Success College, I extend hereby my warmest congratulations to students who overcame all difficulties and completed their studies successfully in spite of the pandemic, my congratulations to their families and friends as well. **YOU DID IT YOURSELF GIVE YOURSELF A BIG APPLAUSE** .I would also like to pay the highest tribute to all dedicated and selfless lecturers, and express my sincerest gratitude to all sectors of the society for their strong support to our students during this period.

The coronavirus has been a huge challenge to our college, society, and country at large and did not spare even our biggest universities in Namibia. During the pandemic, as management we gave top priority to the safety, and physical and mental health of our lecturers and students. We have worked relentlessly and done our utmost to minimize the impact on the teaching and learning in the college.

I am glad that even though students were compelled to stay apart, they cared for and supported each other, and actively participated in the fight against the coronavirus, all the while keeping pace with their studies... Meanwhile, Lecturers and tutors held steadfast to their positions and made unremitting efforts to constantly adapt and improve online teaching.

I can say that during the pandemic, lecturers and students demonstrated strong will and dedication, allowing the College to give full play to its capabilities in order to adapt and serve in face of the epidemic. Each and every one of you deserves the highest applause for your efforts and contribution.

With corona pandemic Monitronic Success Colleges and higher education in Namibia and all universities shifted to remote learning to safeguard student, faculty and staff well-being. This abrupt change was remarkable. For decades, the majority of higher education institution in Namibia have followed the dialogue of disruptive technologies without truly embracing the potential for transformation in educational delivery or achieving much of the potential for smarter institutional operations. And yet, within the span of a few days, faculty, staff and students enacted drastic conversions in order to continue the core mission of teaching and learning through the pandemic.

This hasty transition was neither straightforward nor seamless. During this challenging time, four key lessons have emerged as we strive to construct a vibrant, equitable and affordable future for higher education in Namibia.

First, like our peer institutions, we at the Monitronic Success have learned to make better use of technology to enhance learning, increase access and promote college completion, without fear that such investments can or will fully take the place of experiential education. But to fully realize the promise of technology in education, we must address the digital divide, which is real and deep.

When we shifted to remote learning in the spring, we swiftly discovered that many of our students did not have laptop computers, reliable access to the internet or the technical tools they needed to continue their studies. Without a significant intervention, turning to technology in the pandemic will perpetuate and exacerbate disparities in educational access and quality. There is inequality not only in higher education in Namibia

With the help of NSFAP and Ministry of Higher Education we received mobile hotspots many university units and donors, the U. created hotspots and laptops provided to student programs and facilitated students' access to the learning resources they needed. A second lesson from the pandemic is that higher education in Namibia have a vital role to play in restoring economic vibrancy through reskilling and upskilling displaced workers and adapting to changing workforce needs. A third lesson is that we can operate smarter at a number of levels.

We've learned that some of the College's work can be done remotely with few if any negative consequences.

A fourth lesson of the pandemic is the crucial importance of communication. Sharing information, listening to questions and insights and adapting plans based on input and data have been essential as we continue the work of an accredited college and communicate with other universities and colleges.

Dear class of 2020, as your alma mater and Namibia emerge successfully from the pandemic, the joyous moment also marks one when you are about to bid farewell to the campus and embark on a new journey in life. At this moment, I would like to share three suggestions with you:

First, more than ever, we should have a sense of patriotism and responsibility. In the face of a catastrophe faced by all mankind, the responsibility and strengths demonstrated by our country, which included the concerted efforts our central government and Ministry of Higher Education through NSFAP and all sectors of the society, have taught us the most profound and inspiring lesson. It has given us a deeper and more direct appreciation for our home and the nation. The world today is undergoing major changes that are unseen in a century. Not only do we need to have a concern for the whole world and the awareness to participate in solving common problems faced by mankind; we also need to have love for our home country and the courage to shoulder the mission to protect and build our home while fulfilling our personal goals.

Second, more than ever, we should stay optimistic and persevere. The unexpected ‘beast’ of the pandemic has caused us to face a lot of difficulties and losses as never before. These last two years has been a challenging year for all of us, and I believe each of you has your own personal feelings and thoughts on this matter. Perhaps we have had many worries and concerns, but history and experience tell us that we will always find a way to overcome adversity and weather the ups and downs. The coronavirus may continue to bring uncertainties in the future. However, no matter what difficulties or setbacks you encounter, I hope you can always remain sunny and positive, rise up to the problems, find ways to tackle them and achieve self-actualisation in the midst of challenges.

Third, more than ever before, we should keep learning and progress through change. The pandemic has revealed to us that enormous changes will take place in lifestyle, technology application, international relations and other aspects of the future world. I believe that you have equipped yourself with a level of knowledge and competencies during your studies at Monitronic Success College to give you confidence in yourself. I hope you will make good use of your knowledge in the future. The future will need you to continue to advance your knowledge. Be ready to think and dare to innovate, more than ever.

Dear students, ‘what’s past is prologue.’ Now you are off to start a new chapter in your life, I hope you will keep in mind and put into action the College’s motto, ‘ Success is born of zeal .Give your youthful dreams wings to fly, embrace the world with generosity and virtue, and conscientiously put what you have learnt to practice. In closing, before you leave the college, I

would like to convey my heartfelt wishes again to the students who could not physically make it to this ceremony. I look forward to your coming back and visiting us when conditions permit. Your alma mater is always open