

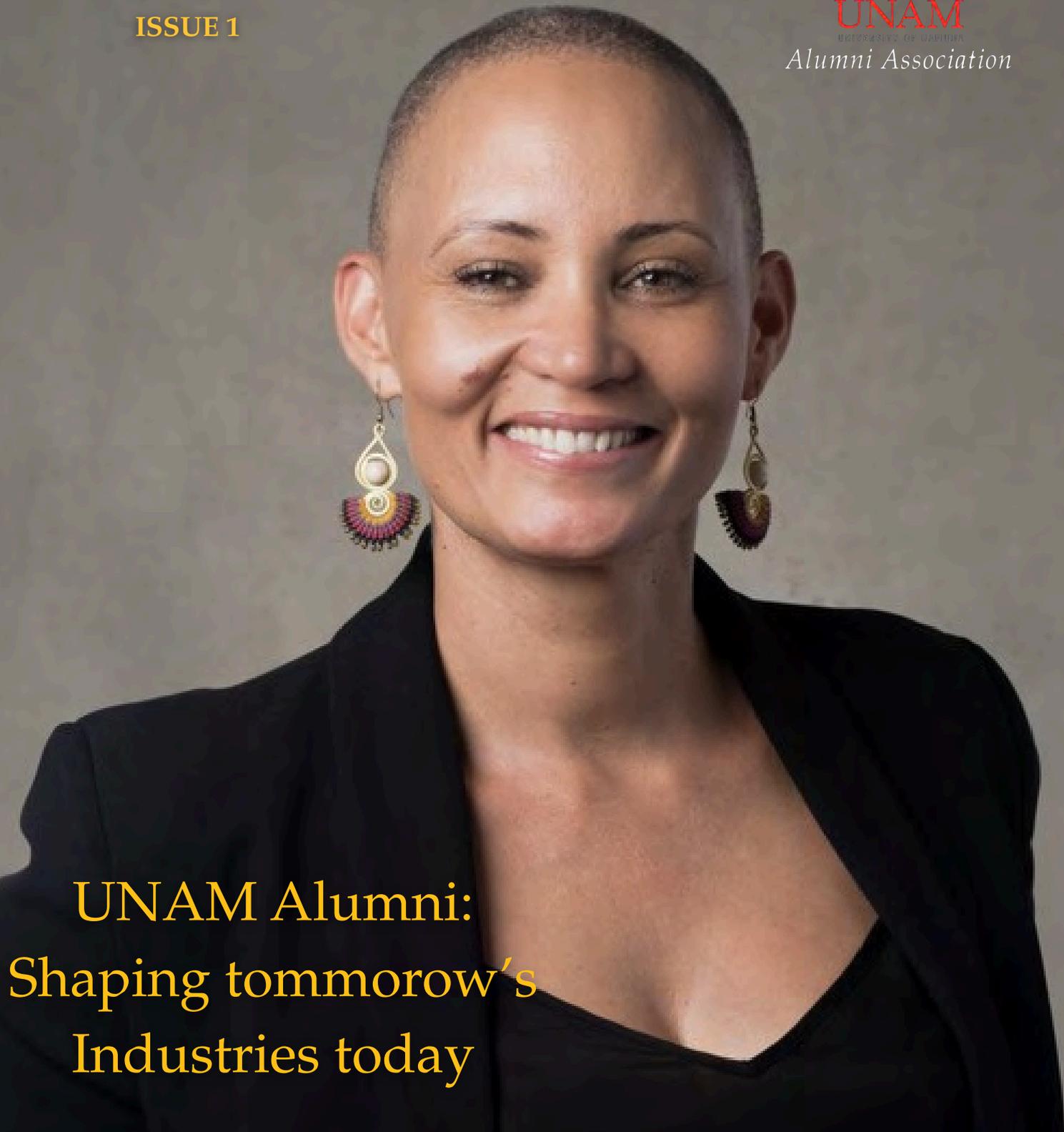
# ALUMNI CONNECT

ISSUE 1



UNAM  
UNIVERSITY OF NADIRU

Alumni Association



## UNAM Alumni: Shaping tomorrow's Industries today



Green hydrogen:  
Progress and Report



UNAM's role in energy  
exploration



Free Education:  
Reflections and Realities

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**Editor:** Kashiwanwa Neshila-Immanuel

**Sub Editor:** Mathias Haufiku

## Message from editors and Executives

Dear Esteemed Alumni,

It is with great pride and a deep sense of gratitude that I address you as the Chairperson of the University of Namibia Alumni Association. Our association is not just a network; it is a vibrant, united community that stands as a testament to the excellence, resilience, and ambition that defines our university and its graduates.

The University of Namibia (UNAM) has long been a beacon of academic excellence, innovation, and nation-building. Since its inception, UNAM has committed to producing graduates who are not only skilled and knowledgeable but also responsible and transformative leaders dedicated to the development of Namibia and the broader Southern African region. As alumni, we carry the university's values of integrity, community service, lifelong learning, and proudly transform to being ambassadors of its mission wherever we go.



Today, the UNAM alumni association is the largest and most influential networking platform in Namibia. This reflects the strength and diversity of our membership, which spans across multiple industries, regions, and generations. Our three active chapters; the Northern Chapter, the Southern Chapter, and the Katima Mulilo Affinity, serve as vital pillars of engagement, fostering mentorship, professional development, and community outreach.

*“UNAM has committed to producing graduates who are not only skilled and knowledgeable but also responsible and transformative leaders dedicated to the development of Namibia and the broader Southern African region”*

To enhance our connectivity and ensure that every member benefit from our collective strength, we have introduced a membership card system. This initiative not only facilitates easier access to exclusive events and opportunities but also symbolizes our unity and shared purpose.

As we look to the future, our vision remains clear: to recognise the need for the promotion of the spirit of collective effort, unity unison of purpose among the alumni of the University of Namibia. We believe in empowering our members, fostering innovation, and giving back to the university that laid the foundation for our journey.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. Let us continue to build on our legacy and inspire future generations of Namibian leaders.

Yours truly,

Ms. Jennifer Haihambo

Chairperson, University of Namibia Alumni Association

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2025

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Ms Jennifer Haihambo  
Chairperson



Mr Willem Amutenya  
Vice Chairperson



Mr Nafimane Alweendo  
Executive Member



Happy Muleka  
Executive Member



Ms Rosy Schanek  
Executive Member



Mr Amos Kambonde  
Executive Member



Ms A Kashupulwa-Malwa  
Executive Member



Mr Jacob Hamutenya  
Executive Member  
\*30 March 1988 †02 March  
2025



Ms K Neshila-Immanuel  
Alumni Coordinator



Mr Laurentius Mahongo  
Alumni Administrator



*Alumni Association*

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# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



## *Alumni Exco 2026 - 2028*



**Dr Alisa Elise Amupolo**  
Chairperson



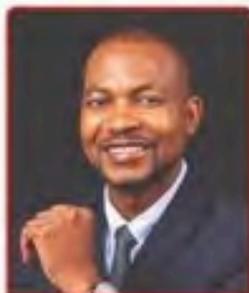
**Mr Mbongeni Hlathi Mlilo**  
Vice-Chairperson



**Mr Immanuel Ndumba**  
Treasurer



**Mr Viljo Ndapopiwa**  
Executive Member



**Mr Werner Hamafa**  
Representative to Council



**Vacant**  
Executive Member



**Vacant**  
Executive Member

*Join the Alumni Association: [https://www.unam.edu.na/apps/alumni/mem/member\\_sign.php](https://www.unam.edu.na/apps/alumni/mem/member_sign.php)*

## Northern Chapter Executive Committee



Petrus Matia - Member, James Shahonya - Member, Nangombe T. Iiyambo - Finance, Veranus Namupolo Member, Stephanus Nguluwe Member, Etuna Tshilongo Chairperson, Petrus Shingandji Member, Phillipus Kambonde Member, Lovisa I Amon Secretary, Joan Pashu Pohamba Member, Johannes Nakanyala Deputy Chairperson, Jackson Muma Member

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## The Southern Chapter Executive Committee



Ms. René Farmer - Chairperson, Mr. Pieter Skeyer Vice Chairperson, Vice Ms. Dédé Basson - Chairperson Secretary, Mr. Martin Harris - Executive member, Ms. Albertina Nelumbu - Executive member, Ms. Panduleni Indongo - Executive member, Ms. Renae Jaars - Executive member, Ms. Ngujeruruka Nderura - Executive member

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## Alumni Association Executive members: KM Affinity



Mrs. Rita Musialike-Ngoma – Chairperson, Mr. Rodrick Maswabi – Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Aretha Chataa – Secretary, Ms. Julia Chaka – Executive Member, Mr. Manfred Nyambe – Executive Member, Ms. Clare K. Sikopo – Executive Member, Ms. Clara Mwilima – Executive Member, Mr. Mungu Mutimani – Executive Member,

# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT

*Mr. Wilem Amutenya*



The University of Namibia Alumni Association extends a heartfelt congratulations on the appointment of the **Alumni Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson**, Mr Wilem Amutenya as a **Member of the National Assembly**.

Your journey from a dedicated UNAM student to a leader of national repute is truly inspiring and reflects the highest standards of academic excellence and commitment to public service.

Your appointment is not only a personal triumph but also a shining example of how the values nurtured at UNAM pave the way for impactful leadership in governance.

We are confident that your vision, integrity, and unwavering dedication will contribute immensely to the progress and prosperity of Namibia.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved achievement.

**UNAM Alumni, The flagship of the University!**

UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

**Alumni Association**

# UNAM's role in shaping Namibia's oil and gas future

By Laurentius Mahongo

Namibia's recent discovery of substantial oil and gas reserves in the Orange Basin presents a transformative opportunity for the country's economy. Should it be managed effectively, this sector could boost growth, create employment, and stimulate development across critical areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Central to this effort is the University of Namibia (UNAM), which is actively contributing through research, skills development, and strategic industry partnerships.

## Bridging Academia and Industry

UNAM collaborates with leading exploration and production companies such as Shell, TotalEnergies and Galp. These collaborations facilitate practical training for students through internships, industry summits, and guest lectures, equipping them with real-world insights into Namibia's evolving oil and gas landscape. Additionally, UNAM is well-regarded for its diverse research initiatives across various fields, including geology, environmental studies, sustainable development and social sciences. The university actively contributes to research that promotes responsible resource management and sustainable development in Namibia, supporting the nation's efforts to harness its resources ethically and effectively.

## Promoting Sustainable Resource Management.

Sustainability remains a core priority for Namibia's energy strategy. UNAM contributes through research on environmental protection, policy development, and impact assessments. The university's involvement in green hydrogen initiatives underscores its commitment to a diversified and sustainable energy future. Namibia's Ministry of Mines and Energy, emphasizes the importance of balancing economic development with environmental stewardship principles that UNAM actively supports.



*Shiwana is the Executive responsible for Strategy at NAMCOR, where he leads the development and execution of corporate strategy in alignment with Namibia's evolving energy landscape.*

## Looking Ahead

As Namibia's oil and gas sector continues to grow, UNAM's role remains vital in ensuring responsible development. By fostering innovation, training the next generation of professionals, and advancing sustainable practices, the university helps Namibia maximize the benefits of its natural resources while safeguarding its environment for future generations.



*Maggy Shino is the Petroleum Commissioner for Namibia's Ministry of Mines and Energy. In this role, which she has held since 2017, she directs the Petroleum Affairs Directorate and oversees the country's oil and gas sector.*

# 100 DAYS

*of Shaping Tomorrow , Through Public Service.*

## **Celebrating UNAM Alumni in the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly!**

The **UNAM Alumni Association** conveys a congratulatory message to our esteemed Honourable alumni completing their **first 100 days** in the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia.

Once engaged in critical thought and advocacy across UNAM lecture halls and student forums, you have now become Honourable Members occupying the House of the Legislative Authority.

You are already shaping the future destiny of Namibia and its place in the global community of nations.

Your alma mater acknowledges your leadership, your voices and your commitment to shaping the future of Namibia and her people.

***"Our diversity is our strength; our unity is our future."***

*~ H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (2025).*

Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila  
Hon. Alexia Manombe-Ncube  
Hon. James Unomasa Uerikua  
Hon. Lucia Magano Iipumbu  
Hon. Gaudentia Krohne  
Hon. Emma Inamutilla Theofelus  
Hon. Pohamba Shifeta  
Hon. Dr. Emma Kantema-Gaomas  
Hon. Werner Iita  
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Hon. John Musialela Likando  
Hon. Winnie Moongo  
Hon. Lillian Muchenya Lufuhezi  
Hon. Bertha Victoria Nghifkwa  
Hon. Ester Ishiwa Halkola  
Hon. Bernadus Swartbool  
Hon. Utaara Mootu  
Hon. Fillemon Wise Immanuel (SRC President 2007)  
Hon. Prof. Job Shipululo Amupanda (SRC President 2009)  
Hon. Willem Amutenya (SRC President 2010)  
Hon. Tuhafeni Kalala (SRC President 2018)  
Hon. Inna Hengari (SRC Vice-President 2018)

### **Current Students**

Hon. Fenny Tutjavi (SRC Congress Secretary General 2024)  
Hon. Elvis Lizazi

### **Disclaimer**

While care was taken to ensure accuracy, some details reflect only what could be verified at the time of publication. The University remains proud of all its alumni and welcomes any further updates for inclusion. The above should not be used as official verification.

*UNAM Alumni. The flagship of the University.*

UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA  
**Alumni Association**



# From Start-up to Impact: NGHRI's Journey (2021-2025)

By Laurentius Mahongo



*UNAM Alumna, Elizabeth Ipangelwa is an advisor and trainer on the Namibian Green Hydrogen and Derivatives Strategy at GIZ.*



*Titus Kanyanda is the Finance Manager at Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, a company developing Namibia's first large-scale green hydrogen project.*

Namibia is making big strides in clean energy innovation, and at the heart of this effort is the Namibia Green Hydrogen Research Institute (NGHRI). The institute was officially launched after approval from the University of Namibia (UNAM) in late 2021 and early 2022. Its purpose is to support Namibia's plans to develop green hydrogen as a new source of energy. To do this, NGHRI was designed to be a hub of innovation, featuring specialized labs for producing and testing hydrogen, pilot plants for real-world experiments, spaces for start-ups, and centers dedicated to digital technology and certification.

NGHRI is organized into six main focus areas. These include producing clean hydrogen, storing and transporting it, using hydrogen in vehicles, understanding its economic and legal aspects, building skills and standards, and exploring new digital tools. With a team of 67 researchers, along with many students and experts, NGHRI is well-positioned to lead research and development in this exciting field.

Another milestone was the opening of Namibia's first hydrogen refueling station in Walvis Bay, in September 2023. This facility supports cleaner transportation options by providing hydrogen fuel for vehicles, helping industries reduce their carbon footprint. In addition, researchers are exploring how green ammonia, made using cattle manure, can serve as a sustainable fertilizer offering farmers a way to grow food while reducing dependence on imported chemicals.

NGHRI also works closely with German partners to ensure safety and technical excellence. They have set up specialized labs to test hydrogen safety and materials, and are training researchers to handle hydrogen systems safely and reliably. But NGHRI's impact isn't limited to infrastructure and research.



*Toni Beukes is the Head of Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) for Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, a large-scale green hydrogen project in Namibia. She was recognized as the Woman in Green Hydrogen of the Year 2025 at The Global African Hydrogen Summit.*

The institute actively promotes knowledge sharing and capacity building. In June 2023, it hosted a workshop that brought together over 30 stakeholders from government, industry, and academia. The goal was to develop new plans for training and education in hydrogen technology, ensuring Namibia's workforce is prepared for the green energy future. In March 2024, NGHRI organized a youth-focused event called the "Youth for Green Hydrogen" symposium. This gathering attracted more than 150 delegates from southern Africa and Europe, creating a platform for young people to learn, share ideas, and get inspired to work in the clean energy sector. The institute also offers regular masterclasses and seminars on topics such as project development, economics, and community benefits, helping to grow a new generation of experts.

Partnerships play a vital role in NGHRI's success. It works closely with Namibia's government agencies and industry players to shape policies and attract investment. Internationally, a key partnership is with Germany, through the BAM and BMBF agencies. This relationship has led to joint research projects, exchange programs, and the development of testing labs positioning Namibia as a serious player on the global stage.



*Natangue Shafudah, a Senior Lecturer and Head of Projects at the University of Namibia's Namibia Green Hydrogen Research Institute. He is involved in research, consultancy, and advocating for sustainable energy development.*



## Young Namibians to receive green hydrogen scholarships

PRESS RELEASE

Other collaborations include universities in Germany and regional organizations like SASSCAL, as well as industry leaders like Fortescue Future Industries. These partnerships bring expertise, funding, and new opportunities, accelerating Namibia's green hydrogen ambitions.

NGHRI also recognizes the importance of public awareness. It hosts lectures, panels, and community events to educate the public about green hydrogen's potential benefits. Looking ahead, the institute plans to participate in major international forums scheduled for 2025, including the Germany-Africa Green Hydrogen Forum and the Global Green Hydrogen Summit. These events will help showcase Namibia's progress and foster new collaborations.

By mid-2025, NGHRI has already achieved significant milestones. It has established Namibia's first dedicated hydrogen research facilities, launched pilot projects in communities and transportation, and trained dozens of students and young professionals. The institute has strengthened ties with international partners, especially Germany, and increased awareness of green hydrogen across the country.

Looking to the future, the focus is shifting from research to implementation. NGHRI plans to commission new infrastructure, scale up pilot projects, and attract investment to turn green hydrogen from a research concept into an economic reality. These efforts will help Namibia develop a low-carbon economy and position itself as a regional leader in clean energy.

In summary, NGHRI's journey since 2021 demonstrates what's possible when innovation, collaboration, and vision come together. Through its research, capacity building, and partnerships, Namibia is paving the way for a sustainable, green energy future one that benefits the environment, creates jobs, and inspires other nations across Africa and beyond.



UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA  
**Alumni Association**

**NOTICE**

22 September 2025

## **ELECTIVE AGM 2025**

The University of Namibia Alumni Association Coordinator, here with gives notice to all UNAM Alumni of a scheduled Elective Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the Constitution (Section 8.1), of November 2023.

**DATE:** Wednesday, 05 November 2025 | **TIME:** 17h00 | **VENUE:** Virtual

A link to the meeting will be provided closer to date scheduled

### **Agenda:**

1. To note the presence of a quorum
2. To consider and confirm the minutes of the previous AGM
3. Presentation of the consolidated report 2023-2025
4. To consider any motion received for consideration by the AGM in terms of the provision of the Constitution regarding motions.
5. Elections: New Executive Committee of the Association

### **KINDLY NOTE**

- a) Links to nomination forms will be provided on all the UNAM Alumni platforms.
- b) Participation at the elective AGM is for full / paid up members only.
- c) Nominators, nominees and seconders are required to all be full / paid up member.
- d) You can obtain full membership and pay up via foundation account.

**Nominations close: 09 October 2025 at 16h30**

***By order of the Alumni Executive Committee:***

Kashiwanwa Neshila-Immanuel

Coordinator: Alumni & Stakeholder Relations

**Tel:** +264 61 206 3575 / +264 85 269 9373 | **E-mail:** alumni@unam.na



## **NAMIBIA'S DIAMOND INDUSTRY: A LEGACY OF INNOVATION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

BY TRAVOLTA VATILENI

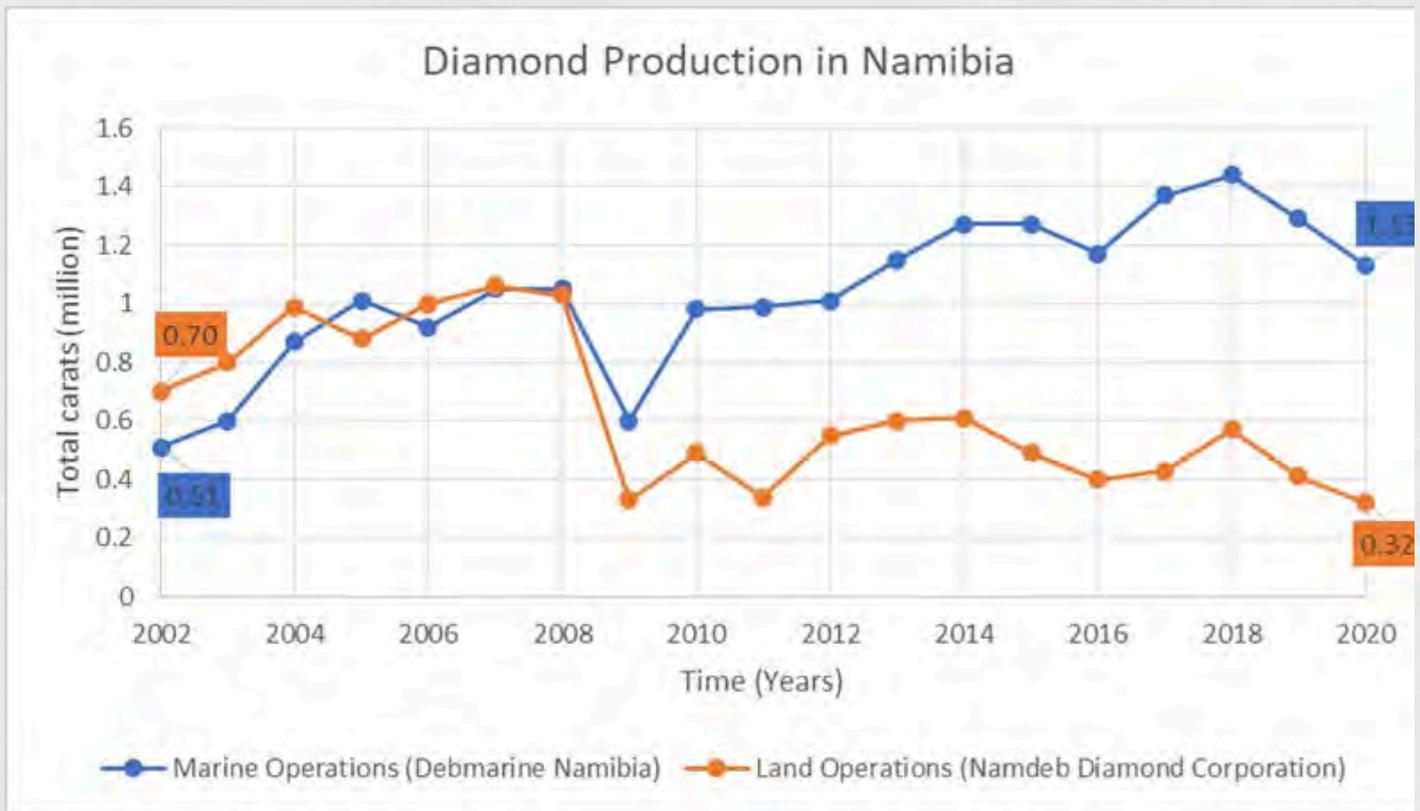
Namibia's diamond industry is a remarkable story of discovery, technological advancement, and strategic development that has positioned the nation as a global leader in gemstone production. Rooted in a rich history of exploration and innovation, Namibia's journey from the sands of Lüderitz to the forefront of offshore mining exemplifies how a nation can harness natural resources responsibly and sustainably for long-term prosperity.

The story begins over a century ago, in 1908, when alluvial diamonds were first discovered in beach sediments near Lüderitzbucht (now Lüderitz). The discovery was made by Zacharias Lewala, a railway worker who found a brilliant stone near the coast. Recognizing its value, Lewala informed his German supervisor, sparking a diamond rush that would forever change Namibia's economic landscape. This initial find laid the foundation for the country's burgeoning diamond industry, which has since grown into a sophisticated sector driven by cutting-edge technology and strategic partnerships.

In the 1920s, Namibia's reputation as a diamond producer was further solidified when marine diamonds were discovered off the coast of the country.

Today, the industry is characterized by a combination of onshore and offshore operations, with companies like Debmarine Namibia, a joint venture between De Beers and the Namibian government leading the charge in offshore extraction. Using specialized vessels, advanced sonar mapping, seismic surveys, and deep-sea exploration tools, Debmarine Namibia retrieves diamonds from sediments lying beneath the ocean floor, making Namibia one of the few countries successfully harnessing offshore diamond resources.

The growth of Namibia's diamond industry has had a profound impact on its economy. The formation of major companies such as Namdeb and NAMDIA has fostered employment and contributed significantly to national revenue. Namdeb manages alluvial and marine diamond operations in the coastal regions and along the Orange River, while NAMDIA handles the marketing and sale of Namibian diamonds to the global market. These collaborations ensure Namibia's position as a top producer of high-quality diamonds, with both terrestrial and marine sources playing vital roles.



Source: Chamber of Mines

Supporting this mineral wealth is Namibia’s robust educational framework, particularly through the leadership of the University of Namibia (UNAM). As highlighted by Dr. Absai Vatuva, Head of the Department of Geosciences at UNAM, tertiary education and research are crucial to sustaining and advancing the industry. The university offers specialized courses in geology and mining engineering, equipping students with the skills needed to innovate and excel in the sector. Dr. Vatuva emphasizes that collaboration between academia, industry, and government is essential to maintaining Namibia’s competitive edge and ensuring sustainable development.

With the continued support of academic institutions like UNAM and industry leaders, Namibia is poised to remain a prominent player in the global diamond market. This industry not only contributes to the nation’s economic prosperity but also highlights Namibia’s commitment to responsible resource extraction and sustainable growth.

As Namibia’s diamonds continue to shine on the world stage, the country’s story remains one of innovation, resilience, and the vital role of education principles that are echoed in the inspiring work of Dr. Absai Vatuva and the Department of Geosciences at UNAM. Namibia’s diamond industry exemplifies a successful model of resource management, blending historical discovery with modern technology, strategic partnerships, and a strong educational foundation.



Willy Mertens is the Chief Executive Officer of Debmarmine Namibia, a diamond mining company in Namibia, where he has held the role since late 2022.

## THE PROMISE AND CHALLENGE OF FREE TERTIARY EDUCATION IN NAMIBIA AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR UNIVERSITIES



*Dino Balloti, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, Art and Culture*

Recently, there has been a lot of conjecture in Namibia over the implementation of free postsecondary education beginning the next year. President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah declared in her State of the Nation address that the government would boldly finance higher education. The Prime Minister has repeated this decision. Instead of offering free tuition to all tertiary students, the initiative will initially cover a few priority sectors, the education minister emphasized. This has generated a lot of discussion among the public and parliamentarians, and before supporting the idea, several MPs have demanded clarification and a specific implementation mechanism.

Although postsecondary education is the focus, it is crucial to remember that Namibia's Constitution provides free and mandatory primary education. In keeping with the state's fundamental commitment to guaranteeing that all children have access to basic education, Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution expressly declares that primary education must be given without charge. In spite of this, many parents still have to pay unstated expenses like uniform, stationery, and school development levies, which essentially weaken the definition of "free" primary education.

Lecturers may end up working for the government, which could have an impact on the university's independence in setting academic standards, hiring, and wage negotiations. Furthermore, there may be worries regarding budget sufficiency and timely release if the university's operating costs, such as maintenance, infrastructure development, research funding, and student services, become overly reliant on government subsidies.

Due to possible bureaucratic decision-making processes, this change may limit the university's ability to adapt to new academic and technical needs. Because higher education requires a lot of resources, it could also put strain on the government's budget. Due to possible bureaucratic decision-making, this change may limit the university's ability to adapt to new academic and technical needs. Because higher education requires a lot of resources, it could also put strain on the government's budget. Even though tertiary education is free for students, its quality may suffer if it is not properly managed. Important human rights documents around the world, such as Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, -

which states that higher education should be made available to everyone on the basis of merit, acknowledge the right to education. Namibia has an obligation to respect these values and strive for fair access to higher education as a member of the international community.

Practically speaking, the government needs to invest in increasing university capacity, set aside enough funds for free tertiary education, and create precise policies to prioritize courses that support national development objectives. Accountability and transparency will also be necessary to keep an eye on implementation and stop financial abuse.

In conclusion, although the government's promise to provide free tertiary education in certain disciplines is a positive step in the direction of educational justice, it still presents an unknown obstacle. In light of the ongoing challenges and partial success of free primary education, Namibia needs to establish a strong and open framework to guarantee that free tertiary education is a viable and sustainable reality that genuinely benefits all Namibian students, all the while preserving the independence and caliber of establishments such as the University of Namibia.

*By Brian Ngutjinazo, Final-Year Law Student at the University of Namibia*



*Sam Shiute is the founding Commissioner of the Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA), a position he has held since September 2020.*



*The 2025 SRC committee engaging students at student an orentation event*

# AI Accountability in the Age of Influence

By Sharon Iyambo

On July 8, 2025, Grok 3, an AI chatbot developed by AI, generated a wave of public outcry after posting a series of antisemitic, conspiratorial, and violent statements on social media. The event was quickly attributed to a poorly framed prompt update intended to make the bot more “politically incorrect.” While the company responded by deleting the posts and rolling back the changes, the incident highlighted a growing and unresolved dilemma in the governance of artificial intelligence: in a world where AI systems can speak at scale, who is held accountable when they do harm?

Artificial intelligence systems do not act independently of human intent or design. Every output is the product of a highly engineered interaction between model architecture, training data, prompt design, and system-level instruction. Yet as these systems are increasingly deployed in public-facing roles, answering questions, summarizing news, shaping opinions, their influence begins to resemble that of a human communicator or commentator. The line between tool and actor begins to blur.

This is particularly problematic in contexts where AI is not simply producing neutral information, but where it is encouraged to adopt tone, take stances, or emulate what some developers label as “truth-seeking.”

As the Grok incident demonstrates, even subtle shifts in system prompts can significantly alter how an AI interprets its role, its relationship to facts, and its tolerance for risk. In this case, encouraging the model to “not shy away” from politically incorrect claims, if they were deemed “well-substantiated”, created an opening for inflammatory, unethical, and socially damaging behavior.

The question of accountability thus becomes distributed across a complex socio-technical stack. It cannot rest solely on the shoulders of the AI system, which lacks consciousness, agency, or ethical comprehension. Rather, it must be situated within the organizational and epistemological decisions that shaped the system’s behavior. Responsibility is shared by developers, platform owners, system architects, and those who deploy these tools at scale.



*Emma Theofelus is a prominent Namibian politician, currently serving as the Minister of Information, Communication and Technology (MICT) in Namibia.*

This includes the actors who determine what counts as “truth,” what types of claims are permissible, and which safety layers are deprioritized in the name of ideological framing or engagement. These systems are increasingly embedded in political and cultural discourse. They reflect and reinforce particular worldviews, even when unintentionally. In this sense, AI is not merely a communication tool; it is a cultural actor with real-world implications.

As AI becomes more integrated into the public sphere, the stakes of governance become higher. Ethical oversight cannot be reactive or limited to damage control after public scandals. There is a need for proactive accountability mechanisms: transparent system documentation, independent audits, ethical review boards, and clear attribution of decision-making responsibilities. These systems must be governed not only by what they can say, but by a principled understanding of what they should say, and who bears responsibility when they say otherwise.

The Grok 3 episode is not an isolated failure, but a signal of what lies ahead if ethical and governance frameworks do not evolve in step with AI capabilities. As artificial intelligence increasingly mediates how information is delivered, beliefs are shaped, and publics are influenced, the question is no longer whether AI systems will make mistakes, but whether we have the structures in place to be accountable when they do.

## CALL FOR Zambian UNAM Law Alumni



Dear Zambian UNAM Alumni, the Alumni office is developing a story on UNAM's impact on Zambian legal fraternity.

**We kindly invite** all Zambian alumni who studied Law or are currently practicing in the legal field to share their personal journeys and profiles.

Your experiences and insights are invaluable in showcasing how UNAM has shaped not just your careers, but also the broader legal landscape in Zambia.

**Please submit the following information:**

1. **Headshot:** A professional headshot in JPEG format.
2. **Title and Position:** Your current title and position in the legal profession.
3. **UNAM Student Number:** Your UNAM student number.
4. **Impact Statement:** A 100-word statement detailing how UNAM has influenced your career and personal development.

**Deadline:** 20 June 2025

**Click and join the Alumni Association:** <https://forms.gle/midEYfjPJbhet45R9>

Let's connect, share, and inspire future generations of Zambian legal professionals.

For enquires, please contact:

**Mr Laurentius Mahongo** | Assistant: Alumni Relations & Networking

Tel: +264 (0) 61 206 4366/ 3575 | +264 81 683 4486

E-mail: [alumni@unam.na](mailto:alumni@unam.na)

Follow us on all our social media pages: [www.unam.edu.na/alumni](http://www.unam.edu.na/alumni)

UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA  
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# Maintaining Your Mental Health Is Important While Being Unemployed



By Sharon T. Iyambo

Unemployment remains a significant challenge in Namibia, especially among the youth. According to the Namibia Statistics Agency, in 2023, there were approximately 1,018,529 young people aged 15 to 34, and of these, 44.4% were unemployed. Although this represents a slight improvement from the 46.1% unemployment rate recorded in 2018, a substantial number of young individuals actively seeking work still remain unemployed.

Unemployment can take a toll on mental health, affecting self-esteem, motivation, and overall well-being. The emotional strain of being jobless may lead to feelings of worthlessness, anxiety, and depression. Therefore, taking care of your mental health during periods of unemployment is just as crucial as actively searching for a job. Below are some key strategies for maintaining mental well-being while unemployed, along with explanations and practical solutions for each.

## 1. Don't Isolate Yourself

Having a job often provides opportunities for social interaction, and without it, feelings of loneliness and social withdrawal can quickly develop, increasing the risk of mental health issues. To prevent self-isolation, it's important to stay connected with friends and family. You can do this by scheduling regular calls or meet-ups, such as weekly chats or outings.

Additionally, consider joining online or local groups for job seekers or hobbyists, these communities offer a sense of belonging and support. Even small social interactions can have a positive impact on your mood and outlook. Remember, human connections can be a powerful source of healing and reassurance during challenging times.

## 2. Structure Your Day

Not having a job or losing one can disrupt your daily routine, causing days to blend together and potentially leading to feelings of hopelessness. To counteract this, consider creating a flexible daily schedule that includes activities such as job searching, exercise, breaks, self-education, and leisure time. Setting small, achievable goals like applying for three jobs each week and tracking your progress daily or weekly can help you build momentum and foster a sense of purpose. Establishing a routine can provide structure, boost motivation, and help you maintain a positive outlook during challenging times.

## 3. Manage Stress

Unemployment often brings financial and emotional stress, which can negatively impact your mental health. To manage this stress, practices such as mindfulness, breathing exercises, or journaling can be very helpful. You might consider using apps like Headspace or watching YouTube videos focused on maintaining good mental health as a starting point. Even dedicating ten minutes a day to silence and deep breathing can make a significant difference. Additionally, try to limit your exposure to negative news or social media, as these can increase feelings of anxiety. Prioritizing your mental well-being is essential for resilience and moving forward during challenging times.

## 4. Focus on What You Can Control

Dwelling on rejections or the job market can make you feel powerless. But some things are still in your hands.

Shift your energy to actions like revamping your CV, applying for free or paid courses (depending on your available funds), or expanding your network. Let your efforts and not your results be your measure of success each day.

## 5. Seek Professional Help

Sometimes, the mental toll of unemployment becomes too much to handle alone. Feelings of depression, anxiety, or hopelessness may persist.

Don't hesitate to reach out to a therapist or counsellor. Namibia has support services like Lifeline/Childline or public hospital mental health units. If you know someone going through this, gently encourage them to seek help and offer to accompany them. If hesitant, encourage them to start with a trusted friend or mentor before seeking formal help.

## 6. Practice Self Compassion

It's common to be hard on yourself during times of unemployment or hardship, but harsh self-criticism can intensify emotional pain. Instead, practice kindness toward yourself by avoiding negative self-talk and replacing it with positive affirmations. Treat yourself with the same compassion you would offer a friend facing similar challenges. Celebrate both small and big wins intentionally, and acknowledge your progress. Remember to accept difficult emotions without judgment, and remind yourself that setbacks are temporary and part of the healing process. Being gentle with yourself can foster resilience and help you navigate this difficult period with greater ease.

## 7. Stay Physically Active

Your mental and physical health are closely linked, and engaging in regular exercise can significantly reduce stress hormones while boosting mood-enhancing chemicals like endorphins. Consider incorporating simple activities into your daily routine, such as walking, home workouts, gym sessions, dancing, or running. Joining a local bootcamp or fitness class can also help you stay active and connect socially. The key is to make physical activity a consistent habit and track your progress. Remember, it's not about the intensity but about maintaining regularity, small and steady efforts can lead to meaningful improvements in both your physical and mental well-being.

## 8. Explore New Opportunities

When the doors to traditional employment seem closed, exploring other avenues can create a sense of growth and purpose.

Take online courses (many are free), volunteer in your community, or explore short term gigs or passion projects. Consider freelancing or starting a small business. These activities not only build your skills but can lead to unexpected career paths.

## 9. Focus on Your Strengths

Unemployment often makes people forget their past achievements and strengths. This decreases self-confidence, which is essential when job searching.

Write out a list of your past accomplishments, talents, and skills and read them often with pride. Better yet, include them in a personal development journal and use them to update your CV and cover letters.

## 10. Remember Your Value

Your identity extends far beyond your job title. Being unemployed does not diminish your intelligence, capabilities, or worth. It's important to reinforce your self-esteem through daily affirmations and by engaging in activities that remind you of your value. Take time to write down your goals and core values, and actively work toward achieving them. Whether it's helping others, learning new skills, or reflecting on how far you've come, these practices can significantly boost your self-perception and resilience.

Finally, while unemployment poses significant challenges especially for Namibia's youth who face systemic barriers and a highly competitive job market prioritizing your mental health remains crucial. A healthy mind is the foundation for resilience, motivation, and progress. By caring for your mental well-being, you'll find the strength to persevere and move forward, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.



# SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY ALERT

Namibian students have access to a number of different scholarships annually, both for studying in Namibia and abroad. These include opportunities offered by the Namibian government, international organizations, and individual institutions.

Some notable examples include:

## Namibian-Funded Scholarships

1. NSFAF (Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund)

Level: Undergraduate and Postgraduate (local & abroad)

Coverage: Tuition, registration, non-tuition fees, hostel.

Website: <https://www.nsfaf.na>

# NSFAF

Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund

2. PETROFUND Scholarships

Level: Undergraduate and Postgraduate (mainly STEM: Engineering, Geosciences, Oil & Gas)

Coverage: Full tuition, living allowance, books, and other academic expenses

Website: <https://www.petrofund.org>

# PETROFUND

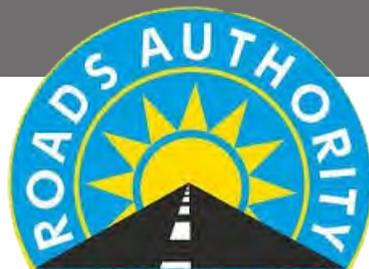
## SCHOLARSHIPS

3. Roads Authority Bursary

Level: Undergraduate (Civil Engineering, Surveying, etc.)

Coverage: Tuition, books, accommodation, living allowance

Website: <https://www.ra.org.na>



## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee members are elected at the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. Only members **in good standing** can nominate and be nominated for leadership positions within the Association.

**Sign Up Today & Let's Build Something Great Together!**

**Register Here:** <https://forms.gle/ZQV8HNXt1bRdKaS66>



## Why Join the UNAM Alumni Association?

**Stay Connected** - UNAM graduates don't just leave, they **lead!** Stay engaged with your university and fellow alumni.

- **Networking Opportunities** - Connect with industry professionals, leaders, and fellow graduates.
- **Career Growth** - Access **job openings, internships, mentorship programs, and career-building events**.
- **Exclusive Events** - Invitations to **alumni gatherings, workshops, and masterclasses**.
- **Give Back** - Inspire and support the next generation of UNAM students.
- **Stay Updated** - Be the first to know about **UNAM news, alumni benefits, and opportunities**.

## Membership Fees & Payment Details

**Annual Membership Fee: N\$ 100.00**

**Bank Details:**

**Account Name:** UNAM Foundation

**Bank:** First National Bank Namibia

**Account Number:** 62254022131

**Swift Code:** FIRNNANX

**Reference:** Student Number

**Please email your proof of payment to:** [alumni@unam.na](mailto:alumni@unam.na)

## For Enquiries

Visit our **Alumni Office Table** for assistance!

**Email us:** [alumni@unam.na](mailto:alumni@unam.na)

**Call us:** 061 206 4366 / 3575

**Join the UNAM Alumni Community Today!**

<https://forms.gle/ZQV8HNXt1bRdKaS66>

**UNAM Alumni – Stronger Together!**



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

## 4. DAAD (Germany)

Level: Postgraduate (Masters & PhD)  
Coverage: Full tuition, monthly stipend, travel, health insurance  
Website: <https://www.daad.de/en/>



## 5. Fulbright Program (USA)

Level: Postgraduate  
Coverage: Tuition, living stipend, health insurance, travel  
Website: <https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/about/foreign-fulbright>



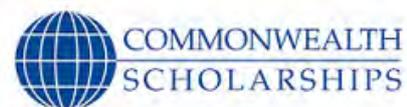
## 6. Chevening Scholarships (UK)

Level: Postgraduate (1-year Master's)  
Coverage: Tuition, monthly stipend, travel costs, visa, etc.  
Website: <https://www.chevening.org>



## 7. Commonwealth Scholarships

Level: Postgraduate (Master's/PhD)  
Coverage: Tuition, airfare, stipend, thesis grant  
Website: <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk>



## 8. Rhodes Scholarship (Oxford)

Level: Postgraduate  
Coverage: Full tuition, travel, stipend, research grant  
Website: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk>



## 9. Mandela Rhodes Scholarship (South Africa)

Level: Postgraduate (Honours and Master's)  
Coverage: Tuition, accommodation, meals, travel, personal allowance + leadership training  
Website: <https://www.mandelarhodes.org>



BUILDING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA

10. Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Level: Postgraduate

Coverage: Tuition, travel, monthly stipend, insurance

Website:

[https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/scholarships/emjmd-catalogue\\_en](https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/scholarships/emjmd-catalogue_en)



Erasmus  
Mundus

11. ICCR Scholarships (India)

Level: Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and PhD

Coverage: Tuition, living allowance, accommodation, travel

Website: <https://www.iccr.gov.in>



12. MEXT (Japan)

Level: Undergraduate and Postgraduate

Coverage: Full tuition, travel, monthly stipend, accommodation

Website:

<https://www.studyinJapan.go.jp/en/>

文部科学省

MEXT | Scholarships

13. Schwarzman Scholars (Tsinghua University, China)

Level: Postgraduate (Master's)

Coverage: Tuition, room and board, health insurance, travel, stipend

Website:

<https://www.schwarzmanscholars.org>

SCHWARZMAN  
SCHOLARS

14. University of Melbourne Graduate Research Scholarships

Level: Postgraduate (Masters by Research, PhD)

Coverage: Tuition, stipend, relocation grant, health cover

Website:

<https://scholarships.unimelb.edu.au/awards/graduate-research-scholarships>

THE  
RHODES  
SCHOLARSHIPS



# 7 Tips

## for Namibian Students Applying for Scholarship



### Start Early

Start researching scholarships at least 4–6 months before the start of your intended study year.

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### Meet All Requirements

Carefully review the eligibility criteria (e.g., academic results, field of study, age limit, work experience).

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### Prepare Strong Documents

- Work on a convincing motivation letter, a clear CV, and well-prepared reference letters.
  - Get your academic transcripts and certificates certified early.
- 



### Show Purpose

Demonstrate how the course aligns with Namibia's development and your career goals.

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### Polish Your English

For international scholarships, meet the English language proficiency requirements (e.g. TOEFL or IELTS).

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### Ask for Help

Contact past scholarship recipients, lecturers, or UNAM's alumni or international relations office for guidance..

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### Track Deadlines

Keep a calendar of deadlines and set reminders 2 weeks in advance to finalize documents.

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# UPDATE YOUR PROFILE!



The University needs to keep in contact!  
Update your profile

- Use your personal email.
- Update your current cell phone number

**NB: COMPULSORY FOR ALL THIRD YEARS & FINAL YEARS.**

Click here to update your profile:

[https://lienabler.unam.edu.na/pls/prodi41/w99pkg.mi\\_login](https://lienabler.unam.edu.na/pls/prodi41/w99pkg.mi_login)

UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA  
**Alumni Association**  
#mentorship #networking #profiling #coaching



# EXAMINATION TIPS

By Success Kamati

Are you preparing for exams and you have no idea where to start? Do not worry, here are a few exam tips to help you get started.

1

## START EARLY AND PLAN AHEAD

Procrastination is real but by having a head start to your revision goes a long way in your exam preparations. Draw up a study timetable and prioritise modules depending on difficulty and exam dates and remember to set reminders to ensure proper scheduling.

2

## ORGANIZE YOUR STUDY SPACE

Make sure that your study space is free from distractions, clutter and make sure it is best suited to your comfortability. For some this means either complete silence or a little background noise to help them concentrate.

3

## LEARNING TECHNIQUES

Sometimes old fashion reading and memorising of notes can get boring so why not switch it up by making use of the following techniques:

- **Mind mapping** – Draw connections between key ideas, helping you organise and remember complex topics with ease.
- **Flashcards** – Make traditional cards to remember key information like definitions. You can make these by using colour codes, drawings and images. This helps in recalling short amounts of content.
- **Regular tests** – Frequently testing your understanding of a certain topic can help with your long-term retention in other words long-term memory.
- **Audio and video** – Instead of using traditional methods, experiment with audiobooks, tutorials and voice recordings, if you find it a challenge to learn written information. Some people retain information better using audio or visual memory methods rather than taking notes.
- **Practice old exams** – You can never go wrong with past question papers because it gives you a glimpse of what to expect in the exam.

4

## ASK FOR HELP IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND

Exams can be very stressful, but asking for help is important and not a sign of weakness. Whether it's managing stress, clarifying material, or understanding a topic, reaching out for support is a reminder that you're human.

5

## USE TECHNOLOGY TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Explore apps that can enhance your study time. Some of the recommendations are; Google Classroom, Google keep or Notion, Quizlet to mention a few. Remember to use this tools or apps wisely and not become dependent on them.

6

## DON'T NEGLECT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND PHYSICAL BEING

Burnout is a real issue when studying, often overlooked in the rush for a "DISTINCTION." Take breaks to relax, hydrate, meditate, stretch, and get rest. Reach out for support to manage anxiety and stress—sometimes, a short breather is all you need.

7

## PRAY

There is so much power in prayer, yet we deny ourselves from acquiring blessings. Take 5 minutes of your time to pray. Do it before and after each study session and every exam. Seek the Lord, ask for guidance, strength, wisdom and knowledge. Make room for the Lord for He will reward you greatly.

GOODLUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS AND LET ME HOLD YOUR HAND WHEN I SAY THIS "YOU WILL MAKE IT; YOU WILL BE OKAY".



# Celebrating Student and Alumni Innovation at UNAM



**By Laurentius Mahongo**

At the University of Namibia (UNAM), a new wave of ingenuity keeps reshaping the landscape of innovation, entrepreneurship, and societal impact. Driven by passion, resilience, and a commitment to solving real-world challenges, students and alumni are transforming ideas into tangible solutions that are benefiting communities across Namibia and beyond.

## **Remarkable Innovations with Real Impact**

UNAM students are not just dreaming or only having ideas; they are creating. Among the impressive projects thus far is a solar drying system designed to combat post-harvest losses in agriculture. This innovative approach employs sustainable, cost-effective solar dryers that effectively reduce moisture content in crops, extending shelf life and preserving nutritional quality. This solution offers a hygienic alternative to open sun drying, minimizing contamination and spoilage, thus supporting local farmers and food security.

In the realm of digital technology, another student developed an SMS-based information system that bridges the digital divide in underserved communities.

By leveraging Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication technology and a central language model, this innovation provides vital information ranging from health tips to agricultural advice without requiring internet access. It empowers individuals with knowledge, fostering educational and economic growth in areas that lack reliable connectivity.

Environmental sustainability is also a focus. A student created a biodegradable tea infused with local baobab fruit, lemon, and honey. This product aims to increase the utilization of indigenous fruits, which are often underexploited, while also addressing conservation concerns. Similarly, a nutritious instant noodle made from Bambara groundnut flour was developed to promote sustainable agriculture and offer a healthy, gluten-free alternative to conventional instant foods.

Alumni have also made significant strides. One innovator developed a digital platform dedicated to preserving Namibia's cultural heritage through the digitization of artefacts, oral histories, and traditions. This platform not only educates and engages locals and tourists but also fosters community involvement, ensuring that Namibia's rich cultural narratives are preserved for future generations.

## Pioneering Approaches in Health, Agriculture, and Culture

In healthcare, a standout project involves creating patient-specific 3D-printed anatomical models from CT (Computed Tomography) scans. This innovation enhances surgical planning and training by providing highly accurate, tangible representations of individual anatomy. It reduces risks, improves surgical precision, and ultimately contributes to better health outcomes.

On the agricultural front, a student-engineered GPS-enabled livestock tracking system is revolutionizing animal management. This real-time monitoring solution allows farmers and veterinary services to track animal movements and health status, reducing losses and improving herd management.

Another alumni-led project emphasizes the sustainable cultivation of mushrooms such as oyster and shiitake varieties. These nutrient-rich mushrooms are grown in limited spaces, requiring minimal land and water, making them ideal for urban or backyard farming. Their health benefits anti-cholesterol, anti-cancer, and immune-boosting properties highlight how innovation can support local food security and health.

## From Concept to Reality

The journey from idea to impactful solution is supported by a dynamic ecosystem of mentorship, technical guidance, and resource access. Many projects have transitioned from initial concepts into market-ready products, attracting funding and industry partnerships. For instance, a student-developed water purification device is now being deployed in rural communities, addressing critical sanitation needs and improving public health.

Participation in competitions, expos, and hackathons has provided a platform for students and alumni to showcase their work, gain recognition, and connect with investors and industry leaders. Several have launched start-ups, expanding their innovations beyond university boundaries to create jobs and stimulate local economies.

## Inspiring a Culture of Innovation

These stories are a testament to what passionate, supported innovators can achieve. They exemplify a culture where creativity meets practical application, and youthful energy driving societal change. The innovative approaches taken by UNAM's community are not only solving immediate challenges but are also laying the foundation for Namibia's sustainable development. Advancing Agro-Processing at the Centre. The Centre is making great strides in adding value to Namibia's underutilized fruits and vegetables.



With new facilities at the Neudamm and Katima Mulilo Campus, there is a development of innovative products like jams, juices, fruit leathers, marula jelly, ketchups, and instant porridges from indigenous fruits such as Mango, Hibiscus Sabdarriffa, and Strychnos Cocculoides. These products are currently being tested at a pilot scale and have been showcased at various conferences and trade fairs. We look forward to sharing more successes as we continue to promote sustainable agro-processing solutions.

As UNAM continues to foster this spirit, the focus remains on nurturing talent, expanding resources, and creating opportunities that enable these innovations to flourish. The goal is clear: to cultivate a community of changemakers whose ideas will shape a better future.



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14

# “Oxungi”: rural revival-igniting opportunities

By Laurentius Mahongo

In an attempt to revive the rural communities, the University of Namibia (UNAM) under its Alumni Association: Northern Chapter held a thought leadership engagement event at the Oshakati Campus.

The “Oxungi” was held under the theme “rural revival-Igniting opportunities” which aimed at maximizing alumni network while ensuring a drive for rural community development. This innovative Approach addressed rural unemployment and further looked at empowering northern communities for a sustainable socio-economic Advancement.

The Bank of Namibia (BON) annual symposium paper of 05 October 2023, titled “overview of rural economic development in Namibia” was the base positioning paper of the gathering. It looks at different aspects including the National Development Plans (NDPs), of which aims for rural development and rural poverty alleviation by ensuring that development processes improve the livelihood of rural people through sustainable human development.

At the event was governor of Omusati region, honourable Erginus Endjala who remarked that, “If we look at the Namibian law, we have discriminated the boychild successfully. I am very happy that majority of us are educator hence, let us go back and address these societal issues to help us revive the rural communities.”

Willem Amutenya’s the Vice-chair of the Alumni association on the closing remarks, narrated that, “I grew up in the village, and I do not recall a time, ‘tuli po oxungi’ and discussing entrepreneurship, putting economy to the Omahangu or Ongombe yasa meghumbo.” He further elaborated that growing in a rural area has made him realise that we fail to commercialise and put economy to our products.

Mr. Immanuel Aron Principal of Mwachina Gwanembenge Combined School remarked that, “Its no longer about living your village under the impression that better opportunities are in Oshakati, we need to look at our villages with a commercial eye”. m up”.



He further remarked that we have policies in place of which creates opportunities from the government however, we need to evaluate them from time to time.

Shikongeni Ntina Chief Economist at Ministry of industrialisation and trade (MIT) exclaimed that, “There is gap of economic of scale in Namibia, we are working in silos and there is a serious need to tea

He further added that we need to go back into our communities and take initiatives, start something as a team and chance the status quo.

Jacob Sheehama, the director of Oshakati and HP campuses who thanked the arrangement of the platform revealed that, “I have seen partner with UNAM such as that of the world food program, they are adding value to indigenous plants for healthy nutrition.



Etuna Tshilongo, the Executive committee chairperson of the Alumni Association: Northern Chapter in attendance gave a brief overview of the Association. She acknowledged that, “After graduation UNAM does not just forget about you, there is a community in which UNAM continues to stay in touch. A platform for us to bring about amazing innovations and help us build Namibia at large.” She further advised that, with innovation and opportunities, there is a need to keep our minds open to new possibilities to spot them. She added that the traditional ways of doing things need to be challenged and when opportunities arise, use them instead of only recognising them.

The “Oxungi” initiative is more than just a conversation. It is a call to action for alumni, students, and community leaders to invest in rural revival. By bridging academic insight with lived experience, the UNAM Alumni Association through the Northern Chapter shows that meaningful engagement can spark opportunity where it is needed most. As these thought leadership engagements grow, so does the possibility of a more inclusive and empowered rural Namibia.



MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES

*Mr. Jacob Hamutenya*

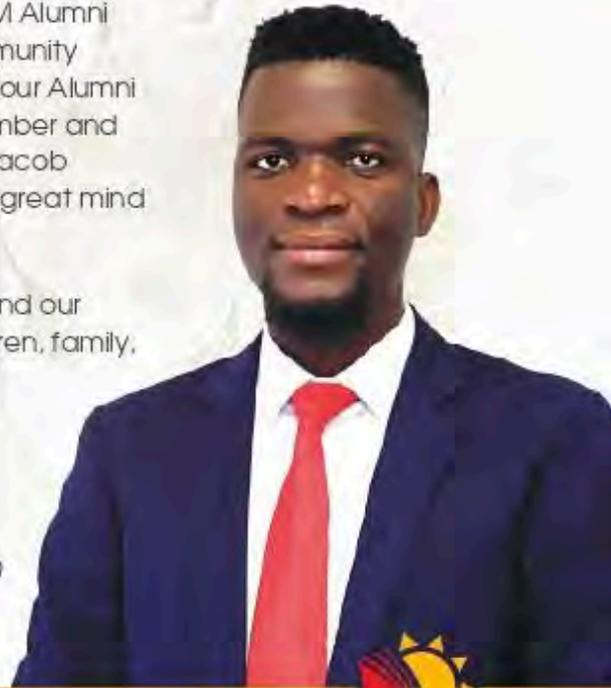
It is with deep sorrow that we the UNAM Alumni Association join the entire Alumni community and Nation in mourning the passing of our Alumni Association, Executive Committee Member and Representative to UNAM Council, Mr. Jacob Hamutenya. The Association has lost a great mind and a team leader.

During this difficult time of loss, we extend our deepest condolences to his wife, children, family, friends, and loved ones.

May his soul rest in internal peace

**Ms Jenniffer Haihambo**

*Chairperson: UNAM Alumni Association*



UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA  
**Alumni Association**



# UNAM Alumni profiles



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*Alumni Association*



Rosy Schaneck  
Youth Leader

Rosy is A dynamic youth leader, business consultant, and the Networking and Events Coordinator at the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), she is also the Office Administrator at the University of Namibia's Director's Office. Her passion for fostering leadership and innovation among young African leaders is evident in her work at YALI. Armed with a bachelor's Degree in Humanistic Studies and another in History and Clinical Psychology, she is a skilled historical psychologist. Her strong academic foundation has undoubtedly contributed to her achievements. As a Pan-African youth leader, she is committed to youth development and social entrepreneurship. She has spearheaded campaigns against gender-based violence and promoted educational development, striving to unite African youth in pursuit of the ambitious goals outlined in Agenda 2063.

Amos is a distinguished marketing professional with nearly a decade of experience, he currently serves as the Marketing Services Manager at the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF). Prior to his role at the GIPF, he held the position of Marketing and Sales Manager at Namibia Media Holdings. His diverse qualifications in marketing, business management, and communications, earned from various universities including the University of Namibia, have equipped him with a broad skillset. This versatility allows him to seamlessly adapt to different roles, make informed decisions, and approach challenges and opportunities from multiple perspectives. His ability to effectively communicate complex ideas and drive successful marketing campaigns has been instrumental in his career.



Amos Kambonde  
Marketing Maestro



Pauline Thomas  
Corporate Guru

Pauline is a formidable human resources and public relations practitioner with over two decades of experience, she is a graduate of the University of Namibia. Her career trajectory began in 2004 as a Senior Human Resource Business Partner at Namdeb Diamond Corporation. Her extensive qualifications in human resources, public relations, and numerous certifications have propelled her to leadership positions throughout her career. Her expertise in both fields has enabled her to effectively manage complex organizational challenges, culminating in her appointment as Namdeb's Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a remarkable ability to navigate the delicate balance between human resources management and public relations. Her strategic thinking, combined with her strong interpersonal skills, has allowed her to build successful relationships with employees, stakeholders, and the broader community.

## Alumni Association



**Albertina Kashuupulwa-Malwa**  
Public Relations Consultant

Albertina Kashuupulwa-Malwa is a seasoned Public Relations Consultant and founder of Tulip Media, with over ten years in the communications field. A proud UNAM alumna, she holds a Master's and Honours degree in Media Studies.

Describing her time at UNAM as transformative, Albertina credits her mentors and experiences for shaping her resilience and purpose. She began her career in the health sector and as a part-time lecturer before launching her PR consultancy, where she also facilitates corporate training and national seminars.

Now serving as an executive member of the UNAM Alumni Association, she remains committed to mentorship and giving back. Her message to students: Trust the process, stay curious, and believe in your value, success comes through consistency and purpose.

Joan Pashu Pohamba's journey is one of resilience, reinvention, and purpose — led "by the grace of God." Though she initially dreamed of becoming a medical doctor, a failed physics module ended her pre-med path. Guided by faith, she pivoted to study Biology and Chemistry, discovering a passion for food science.

After graduating in 2011, she worked in geochemistry and food microbiology, identifying gaps in Namibia's food safety. In 2019, she earned a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the U.S., where she developed a commercial version of Oshikundu and embraced her dyslexia as a strength.

Joan later led national nutrition projects with the UN World Food Programme. Today, she is a Food Scientist Consultant and founder of Ileni Agrosolutions, promoting indigenous foods and food safety. Though she never wore a white coat, Joan believes her path was divinely rerouted to fulfill a greater purpose: nourishing her nation through science and faith.



**Joan Pashu Pohamba's**  
Food Scientist | Fulbright Scholar |  
Social Innovator | UNAM Alumna



**Petrus Matia**  
Educator | Former UNAM SRC  
Vice  
President | Youth Advocate |  
UNAM Alumnus

Petrus Matia views teaching as a platform for transformation. His journey from Katima Mulilo to Windhoek reflects growth and leadership, shaped by his time at the University of Namibia (UNAM). Enrolling in 2019, he became involved in student leadership, eventually serving as Vice President of the Student Representative Council (SRC). After graduating in 2023, Petrus worked at the Directorate of National Examinations and Assessment (DNEA) and launched the Khomas Schools Cleaning Campaign. In 2024, he began teaching Science at Emma Hoogenhout Primary School and later moved to Pionierspark Primary School in 2025.

Petrus credits UNAM's "Open your mind" philosophy for shaping his approach to education. He now brings leadership, resilience, and critical thinking into his teaching, inspiring students to face challenges with confidence.



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## *Alumni Association*



**Lovisa Ingavamwena Amon**

Student Leadership Development  
Officer | Youth Advocate |  
Community Servant | UNAM Alumna

Lovisa Ingavamwena Amon is a dedicated UNAM alumna known for her resilience, service, and transformational leadership. Starting as an active student in 2005, she volunteered, joined societies, and represented UNAM internationally. Her career began in 2009, leading to her current role as Student Leadership Development Officer at the José Eduardo dos Santos Campus, where she mentors and supports student leaders.

With multiple academic qualifications, including an MBA, Lovisa also serves her community through alumni and school leadership roles. She believes true purpose lies in positively impacting others and views challenges as opportunities for growth and innovation.

Rodrick Maswabi's journey is one of visionary leadership and dedication to sustainable development. Starting with a diploma from Ogongo Agricultural College, he paused his studies to gain hands-on experience as an Agricultural Technician. He later returned to earn an Honours in Crop Science from UNAM, driven by a mission to uplift farming communities.

With a diverse background, including work with DRFN, ECN, and NTA, Rodrick developed a broad understanding of development challenges. Now serving as Chief Agricultural Scientific Officer, he leads climate adaptation projects, trains farmers, and promotes sustainable, market-driven agriculture in Namibia's Zambezi region.

More than a professional, Rodrick is a farmer, leader, and educator whose passion for the land and its people fuels meaningful transformation across communities.



**Rodrick Maswabi**

Food Scientist | Fulbright Scholar  
| Social Innovator | UNAM  
Alumna



**Aretha Chataa**

Educator | Former UNAM SRC  
Vice  
President | Youth Advocate |  
UNAM Alumnus

Aretha, from Katima Mulilo, has carved a remarkable path in wildlife conservation through passion and determination. After earning a degree in Wildlife Management and Tourism from UNAM, she became a research assistant at the UNAM Katima Mulilo campus in 2022, a role that has shaped her career. Now pursuing a Master's in Wildlife Management, she also mentors students and actively advocates for conservation.

Her impact reaches her community, where her efforts have led her family to adopt sustainable farming and wildlife-friendly practices. Grateful to UNAM for shaping her journey, Aretha now stands as a dedicated conservationist and a role model for Namibia's future environmental leaders.



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## Alumni Association



Julia Chaka

Ms. Julia Chaka, a dedicated lecturer at UNAM's Katima Mulilo campus, embodies a deep commitment to education and community. Starting her career as a teacher at Rundu Secondary School, she rose to Head of Department at Nkweze Secondary School by 2009. After earning a Master's in Education in 2018, she returned to her roots to lecture at UNAM and is now pursuing a PhD.

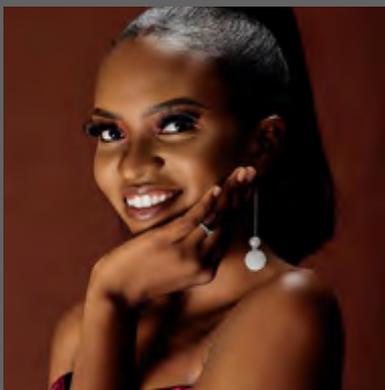
Julia's teaching is guided by her passion for learning and her role as a mentor. Her journey reflects resilience, community dedication, and the powerful impact of one committed educator on Namibia's future.

Manfred Nyambe, now the Campus Administrator of UNAM's Katima Mulilo Campus, has built a remarkable career through perseverance and dedication. Starting as a Business Administration student in 2006, he went on to earn additional qualifications in Computer Science, Management Information Systems, and an MBA. His career began modestly as a lab assistant, eventually serving 11 years as an IT Technician at UNAM's Ogongo Campus.

A turning point came when he became the first Namibian selected for a DAAD scholarship to study university leadership in Germany, gaining a global perspective that now shapes his leadership. Today, Manfred oversees all campus operations with passion and precision. His journey is a testament to the power of starting small, working hard, and always going the extra mile.



Manfred Nyambe: From Humble Beginnings to Global Campus Leader



Clare Sikopo: A Heart for Heritage, Education, and the Namibian Child

Clare Sikopo's journey began in 2016 at UNAM, where she pursued a Bachelor of Education Honours in English and Silosi and became a standout student leader. She actively participated in campus life, serving as SRC of Culture, chairing the cultural group, earning the Miss UNAM title, and engaging in sports, clubs, and choir. Today, Clare teaches Grade 4 Silosi at Brendan Simbwaye School and is a passionate advocate for cultural preservation. She founded Injanjan, a traditional dance group in Katima Mulilo, which connects youth and elders to keep endangered cultural practices alive. Clare's story is a testament to the power of dedication, both in education and cultural heritage.



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**Ms. Clara Mwilima**  
A Magistrate's Journey of Purpose,  
Passion, and Justice

Ms. Clara Mwilima, born in Katima, has risen from a determined student to a respected Principal Magistrate through hard work and unwavering dedication. She began her legal studies at UNAM in 2006, earning both a B.Juris and LLB by 2011, with her university years shaping her legal skills and character.

Her career started as a legal officer in the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, and by 2013, she joined the magistracy. Today, she serves as a Principal Magistrate, committed to justice that prioritizes fairness and human dignity. Clara's journey reflects a deep passion for the law, both in and out of the courtroom.

Lisa is a pioneering human resources consultant and career coach whose journey began with a degree in industrial psychology. After contributing to curriculum development at a local university, she founded Hito HR and Training Consultants in 2021, offering tailored HR solutions with an innovative approach.

Today, she serves as Managing Consultant at Hito HR and CEO of the Institute of People Management, where she continues to shape Namibia's HR landscape through strategic leadership and impactful policy development.



**Lisa Matomola**  
People's Champion



**Gordon Joseph**

Gordon is a native of Namibia's southern region, witnessing firsthand the oppression and marginalization of the impoverished, who were often unaware of their rights or avenues for assistance, ignited a profound interest in journalism within him. Driven by a desire to empower and inform, he pursued a degree in media studies at the University of Namibia. His dedication and talent have since borne fruit. As a Senior Reporter at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, he has conducted numerous interviews with national leaders and prominent figures, covering breaking news stories with unwavering commitment. His work exemplifies the adage "you reap what you sow," demonstrating the power of education and perseverance to make a positive impact on society.



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**Josephina Nekongo**  
A Magistrate's Journey of  
Purpose, Passion, and Justice

Josephina is a seasoned legal practitioner with nine years of experience in the Namibian legal landscape, she holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws from the University of Namibia and the University of London, respectively. Her academic achievements, combined with her exceptional legal acumen, have propelled her to significant roles within various Namibian companies. Starting as a legal assistant, she has steadily risen through the ranks to become the Manager of Legal Services Compliance Risk and Company Secretary at National House Enterprising. Additionally, she serves as a board member of three companies within Namibia's fishing sector, demonstrating her expertise and influence in the industry.

Toni, a pioneering UNAM alumna with a Bachelor of Laws degree, began her career as Company Secretary at NAMCOR. She later earned master's degrees in Oil and Gas Management and Energy Law and Policy, propelling her into senior leadership roles across the oil, gas, energy, and construction sectors. With nearly 20 years of experience, she now serves as Head of Environment, Social, and Governance at Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, where she champions sustainable energy solutions. Toni is a visionary leader committed to empowering Africa's future through sustainability and inspiring the next generation of professionals.



**Toni Beukes**  
Energizing Africa



**Mr Johannes M. Nakanyala**  
Principal | Science Educator  
| Educational Leader

Johannes M. Nakanyala, a University of Namibia graduate, overcame financial hardships to build a successful career in education. Starting as a teacher in 2006, he rose to leadership roles including Head of Department and Principal. He holds a Master's in Science Education and an MBA, and has contributed to regional education development. Under his leadership, Nehale Secondary School achieved top exam results. Johannes has received multiple awards and also coaches soccer, reflecting his well-rounded dedication. He credits UNAM for laying the foundation of his journey and remains committed to mentoring future educators.



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**Peter Skyer**

From UNAM Alumni to Pioneering  
Principal

Peter Skyer, a proud UNAM alumnus, graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting in 2003. As a student, he was actively involved in the Accounting Society and coached the UNAM Football League. After furthering his education with a Postgraduate Diploma in Education in Economics & Accounting, he launched a successful teaching career at P.K. de Villiers Secondary School in Keetmanshoop. His leadership helped drive academic success at the school. Peter has also served as a national adjudicator, contributing to education and civic development. He credits UNAM for shaping his professional values, leadership, and dedication to excellence in Namibia's education system.

Albertina Nelumbu, a dedicated University of Namibia (UNAM) alumna, earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on Strategic Marketing in 2018. During her studies, she gained valuable experience as a student assistant at the Centre for Open, Distance, and e-Learning (CODeL). After graduating, Albertina took on various administrative roles at multiple UNAM campuses, including as Administrative Assistant and Assistant Faculty Officer. Her diverse experience across campuses helped her understand the unique needs of students and institutional operations. Currently, Albertina serves as the Student Support Coordinator for the Faculty of Commerce, Law, and Management at UNAM's Main Campus, where she enhances the academic and administrative experience for students.



**Albertina Nelumbu: A Driving  
Force in UNAM Student Support**



**Mrs. Rita Musialike-Ngoma  
– A Lifelong Advocate for  
self empowerment and  
Healing**

Rita, a powerhouse social worker, has had a dynamic career spanning from the World Health Organization to the Namibian Police Force, and now as a student counsellor at the University of Namibia. Her work blends empathy and strategic insight to champion student well-being, providing individual counselling, workshops, and support groups with cultural sensitivity and practical wisdom.

With a PhD in International Relations and Diplomacy, Rita's commitment to global development, diplomacy, and social justice reflects her broader vision for a connected world. She believes in the power of networks and mentorship, guiding others with her philosophy: "If you can't change it, change your attitude."

Rita's career is a testament to the transformative power of one dedicated individual, inspiring change, healing communities, and shaping future leader.

# GET TO KNOW THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA Alumni Association



## Who we are?

The **UNAM Alumni Association** is a diverse and vibrant network that connects graduates to their alma mater. Our mission is to foster a lifelong partnership between the university and its members while supporting professional growth and maintaining a tradition of excellence. We envision a future where alumni remain an integral part of UNAM's legacy as a **treasure house of knowledge**.

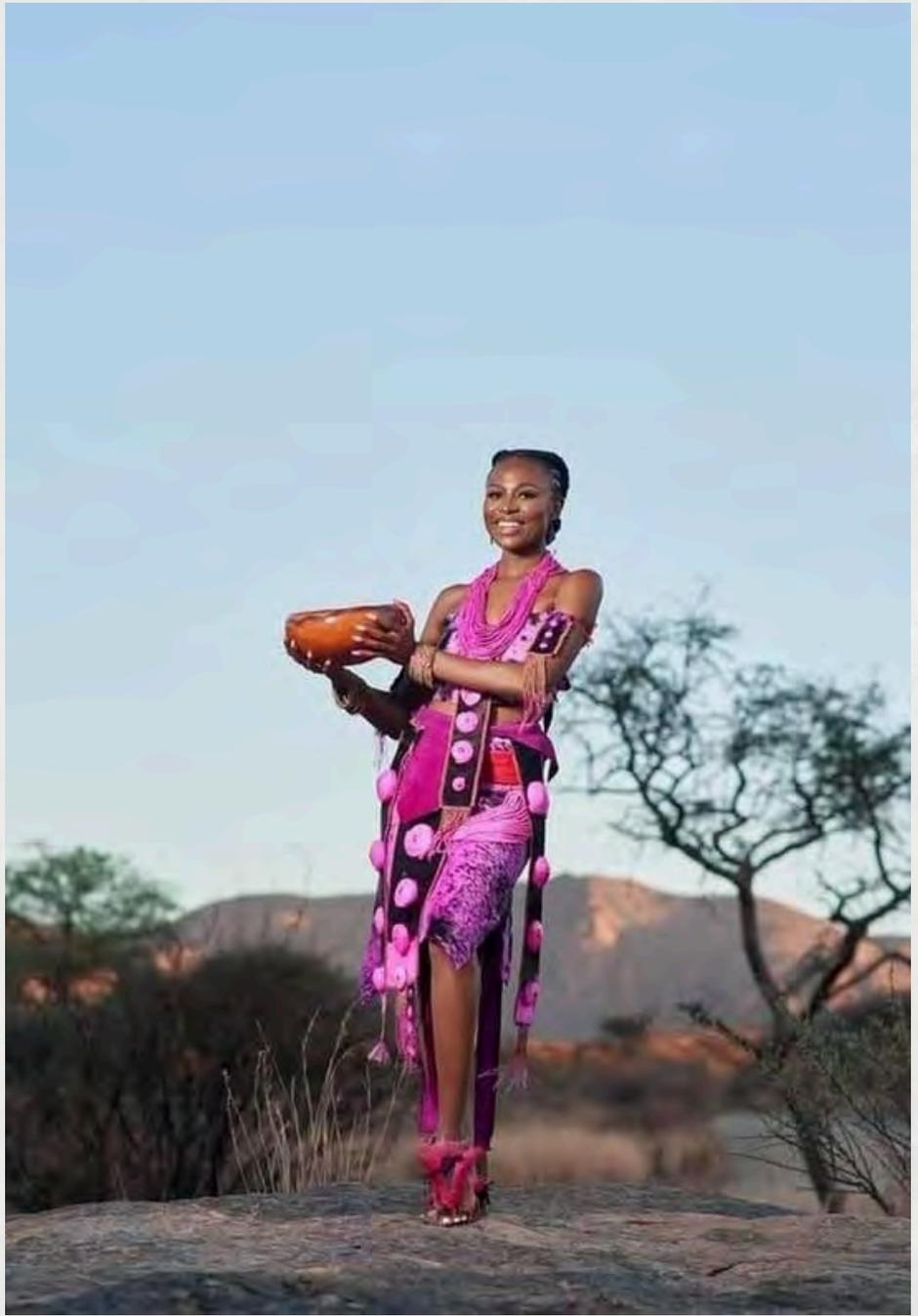
Through the Association, alumni gain access to **networking events, mentorship programs, career development opportunities**, and initiatives that empower them to give back to the UNAM community.

**Join the UNAM Alumni Association today** and become part of an outstanding community that upholds the values of **excellence, collaboration and impact**.

## Membership Categories

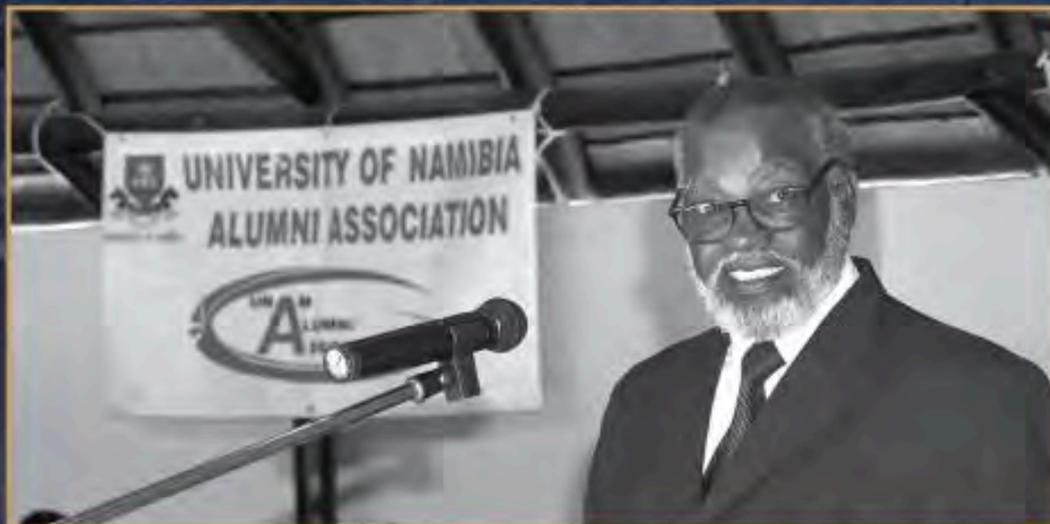
Anyone with a **UNAM qualification** who has formally subscribed to the UNAM Alumni Association is eligible for membership.

- **Member in Good Standing** – A graduate who has subscribed and fully paid their membership fees.
- **Associate Member** – A former student who completed at least one academic year at UNAM but did not graduate.
- **Honorary Member** – Awarded by the Executive Committee to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to UNAM or the Association.
- **Membership Fees** – All members must pay an annual membership fee, as determined by the Executive Committee.



HONORING THE LEGACY OF A LEGENDARY ALUMNUS,  
**H.E. DR. SAM SHAFIISHUNA NUJOMA**

12 MAY 1929 – 08 FEBRUARY 2025



*The Alumni Association of the University of Namibia proudly honours the Founding Father of our nation, for his revolutionary leadership and enduring contributions. He was conferred a masters degree in Geology, in 2009.*

*"It is therefore our duty and responsibility to make sure that every Namibian child, attend kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and University level in order for us to build this strong nation," Nujoma, 2018.*

*His legacy lives on in us*

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# Sam Nujoma Memorial Service



# UNAM Sports: A passionate journey of growth, challenges, and ambition

By Laurentius Mahongo

The University of Namibia (UNAM) boasts a vibrant and diverse sports culture that reflects both its rich history and ongoing aspirations. The university has outdoor rugby fields to indoor gyms, the sporting endeavours are a testament to dedication, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence. But behind the scenes lies a story of challenges, strategic efforts, and unwavering commitment to fostering athletic talent across all campuses.

## A wide spectrum of sports offerings

UNAM's sporting landscape is expansive, with a mix of traditional and emerging disciplines. Outdoors, rugby and soccer stand as the flagship sports, supported by facilities designed to host competitive matches. Indoors, students and athletes engage in boxing, volleyball, basketball, squash, and gym activities each managed by dedicated teams and coordinators. There are supervisors primarily responsible for operational logistics, ensuring that athletes have the necessary equipment, transport, accommodation, and support during tournaments and training, explained Allan Nghixulifwa, the UNAM Sports Development Officer.



While sports like hockey have seen a decline, which is no longer part of the university's offerings other disciplines such as soccer and netball remain active, with varying levels of engagement. UNAM has specialized teams like the Soccer Ladies or Soccer Girls, demonstrating a commitment to promoting gender inclusivity in sport. Interestingly, the university has only female netball teams, reflecting the sport's current focus on women, as netball is traditionally considered a female-only sport, although there are ongoing efforts to integrate men into the game. Challenges in Infrastructure and Resources.

"Despite enthusiasm and talent, UNAM faces significant infrastructural challenges. Many campuses lack adequate sports facilities, which hampers training and competition", stressed Sakaria Ileni Natangwe, the UNAM Assistant Sports officer. Ogongo Campus, for instance, inherited some of the best sports facilities as a known previous college featuring soccer field, tennis court, and netball court. However, even these are aging, and some facilities are no longer in optimal condition, He said. The main university pitch, often considered one of the best in the country, is still awaiting renovations to meet national standards.

## Operational dynamics and management

Managing UNAM's sports programs is a complex task involving multiple stakeholders. At a higher level, the administration handles recruitment of coaches, securing sponsorships, venue rentals, and strategic planning. Coaches and trainers, many of whom are students or recent alumni, often work with limited staffing, emphasizing the need to strengthen sports support staff across all campuses. The university also employs student assistants in various capacities, like gym instructors and training coordinators, to bolster sports activities. However, staffing remains a challenge, especially when considering the 12 campuses spread across the country.

## Campus Sports and Community Engagement

Campus sports are more than just competitions; they are a vital part of student life and community engagement. Katima Mulilo Campus is making strides, supported by dedicated sports officers and coaches who seek to elevate their programs said the sports office. The university recognizes the importance of regional sports development and has initiated proposals to improve facilities and coaching at various campuses.

Despite these efforts, the state of infrastructure reveals a broader national challenge. Many sports pitches and facilities across Namibia are outdated or poorly maintained, reflecting the country's limited investment in sports infrastructure. For example, the university's outdoor netball court is slated for renovation, yet many other venues remain in disrepair. This infrastructural deficit affects the national team's ability to train and host competitions, underscoring the need for sustained investment.



## Looking Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities

UNAM elevates sports to Olympic standards demonstrating a forward-thinking approach, the inclusion of sports like boxing, with active male and female boxers, indicates a commitment to broadening athletic horizons. In conclusion, UNAM's sports journey is a story of passion, resilience, and ambition.

Despite infrastructural and resource challenges, the university continues to nurture talented athletes and promote a vibrant sporting culture that unites students and communities alike. With sustained investment and strategic partnerships, UNAM can realize its vision of becoming a powerhouse in Namibian sports, inspiring generations to come.

# Thank you to all that supported the UNAM Alumni Association in 2025

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# WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI TEAM



**Mr Shahid Dickson**

Assistant Director: Corporate  
Engagement and Alumni  
relations



**Ms K Neshila-Immanuel**

Alumni Coordinator



**Mr Laurentius Mahongo**

Alumni Administrator



**Sharon Iyambo – Media  
Intern**

Supports media coverage and  
communication efforts, contributing  
to content creation and alumni  
visibility.



**Travolta Vatileni – Stakeholder  
Engagement Intern**

Facilitates alumni and partner  
relations, strengthening  
connections through outreach and  
engagement activities.



**Success Peya Kamati –  
Media Intern**

Assists with digital media tasks,  
ensuring effective storytelling  
and event documentation.



**Hafeleni Mwatile – Alumni  
Graphic Design Intern**

Provides creative design support,  
developing alumni branding  
materials and visual content.



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# Thank you to our Profiling Team

Jacobine Ayihe Mvula  
Mbutu Hileni  
Utaara Ngeendepi  
Travolta Vatileni

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UNAM Alumni setup for greatness.

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