



Spring GRADUATION CEREMONY 2026

UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

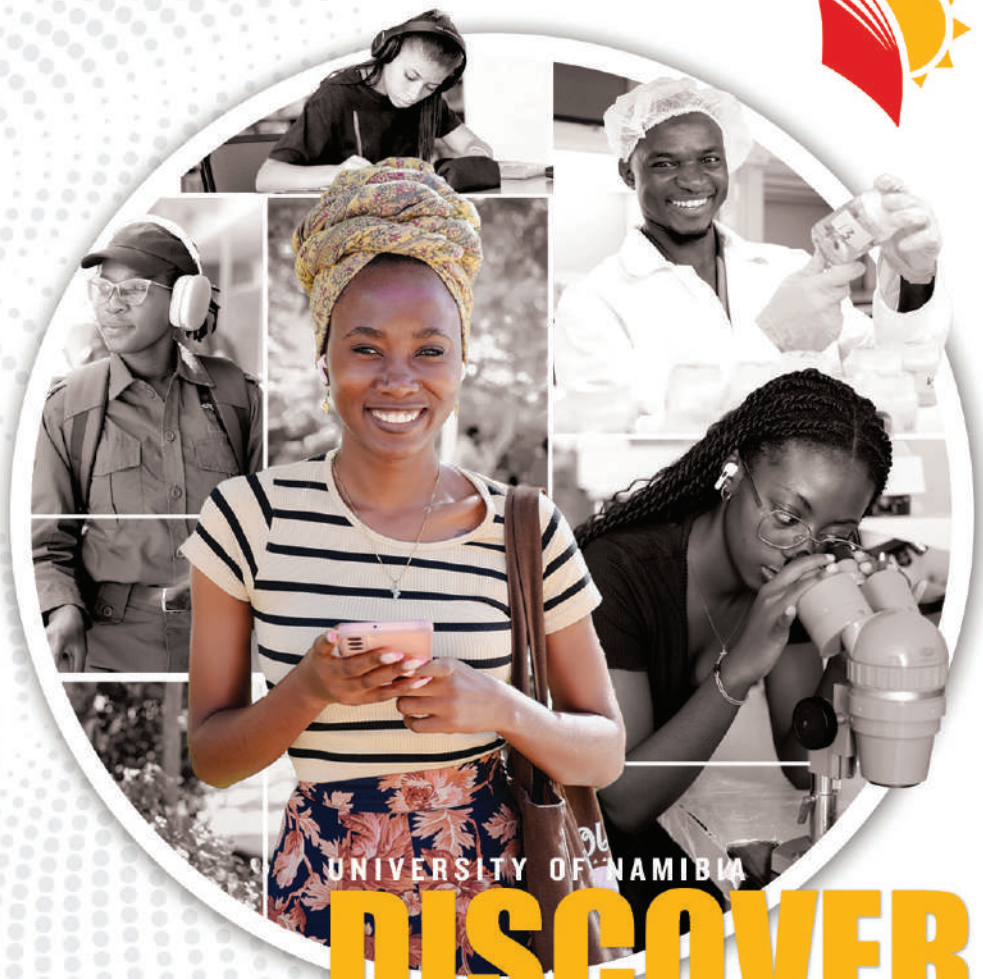
Faculty of Agriculture, Engineering and Natural Sciences

Faculty of Commerce, Management and Law

Faculty of Health Sciences and Veterinary Medicine

SESSION 2 | Thursday, 08 October 2026





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Open your mind

VICE CHANCELLOR'S *Congratulatory Message* TO THE CLASS OF 2026



Dear Graduands,

Spring is, by its nature, a season of arrival, and today, you have arrived. The University of Namibia holds this ceremony each October so that those who completed their studies by the second semester are celebrated without delay, and without waiting. You have earned this moment on your own schedule, and it belongs to you fully.

The qualification you are receiving today was not handed to you. It was built, through sustained effort, through days that tested your resolve, and through a commitment to see it through. That is worth honouring, and we do so today with the full weight of this institution behind you.

From here, the paths vary. Some of you will enter the workplace. Others will build something of their own. Some may return to study. **Whatever direction you take, you carry with you the habits that got you here: the ability to learn, to think, and to persist.** These will serve you long after the specifics of any course have faded.

UNAM has produced graduates who have gone on to shape this country in ways large and small. You are now part of that community. Wear it with pride, but also with responsibility. The people who handed you textbooks, sat beside you in lecture halls, and waited at home for good news – they are part of this day too. Pause and take it in. Then go and make it count.

Congratulations to each one of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Prof. Kenneth Matengu'.

Prof. Kenneth Matengu
Vice Chancellor



Order of Proceedings

THURSDAY, 08 OCTOBER 2026

Session 2

- Arrival of the Vice-Chancellor
 - Arrival of the Chairperson of Council
 - Official Photo Session
-
1. *National/AU Anthems*
 2. **Constitution of the Congregation:** Presiding Officer
 3. **Graduation Blessing**
 4. **Welcome**
 5. **Chancellor's Address**
 6. *Interlude*
 7. **Invitation to Schools to Present Candidates for all Qualifications:** Presiding Officer
 8. **Presentation of Candidates for Undergraduate Diplomas:**
Associate Deans
 9. **Granting of Diplomas:** Presiding Officer
 10. **Presentation of Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees:**
Associate Deans
 11. **Conferment of Undergraduate Degrees:** Presiding Officer
 12. **Presentation of Candidates for Postgraduate Diplomas:** Associate Deans
 13. **Presentation of Candidates for Masters Degrees:** Associate Deans
 14. **Presentation of Candidates for Doctoral Degrees:** Associate Deans
 15. **Conferment of Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters and Doctoral Degrees:**
Presiding Officer
 16. *Dissolution of the Congregation:* Presiding Officer
 17. *AU/National Anthems*



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Associate Dean: Prof Simon Angombe

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RUTJINDO Kajurukondona
TJIPOSA Pezomundu U

DIPLOMA IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

NDEMUWEDA Leocadia

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KAVARA Utjituavi
MAHARERO Kazehitire

MANGA Jesca N
NGHIKEMBUA Modestus H
NGHIWANWA Anna

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MOONGA Tyrese L

MUNUNGA Cesilia M





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JOSEPH Joseph M

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DAUSAB Edith A
KAPENDA Jackson J
MUHIMBA Menongongo

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EELU Tetius
NAMUTENYA Tobias

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NANGWASHA Samuel M





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JOHANNES Naftali N
KAULINGE Moses S
MALAKIA Aron N
MARTIN Onesmus N
MATHEUS Jesaya S
NASHIPII Naftal T
NDEIPANDA Julius L
NGHILINGANYE Ferisy I
PETRUS Helena Penothina
SHIDHIKA Sakaria N
SHIMWEEFELENI Asser P
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NEHALE Helmuth A
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UUGWANGA Jafet
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KASHOKULU Angelica N

LUPAHLA Darlitha K

MARTYN Sandra A

мбауква Kaino N

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NAMBINGA Salmi M

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SABATTA Gilbert

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GURIRAS Florence R

HAILEKA Shaningwa J

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KANYOLO Ndinelago U

KAPEMBE Malakia H

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NAMBINGA Saara N

NDJODHI Naemi N

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SAKEUS Ruusa N

SCHOLTZ Glennadette J

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SHILONGO Adelheid N

SIMATAA Terblanch B

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TJAZUKO Marvelous M

VELIKOSHI Saara N





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SITALI Ian S

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MWATANHELE Eunike N
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JOHANNES Penehafo L
JOHANNES Victoria
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TOMAS Joseph M



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LUSEPANI Monde V





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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN AGRICULTURE
(FOOD SCIENCE)**

MUCHEKEZA Jane Tafadzwa

**NUTRITIONAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND
FUNCTIONAL PROPERTIES OF QUINOA AND
AMARANTH FLOURS AND STARCHES AND THEIR
EFFECTS ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

AND SENSORY ATTRIBUTES IN BEEF-BASED SAUSAGES

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Prof Theopoline Omagano Amushendje assisted by Prof Komeine Kotokeni Mekondjo Nantanga both from the University of Namibia; and Prof Mambo Moyo from Midlands State University, Zimbabwe.

The study evaluated flours and starches from two underutilized and climate-resilient crops, quinoa and amaranth, as alternative functional ingredients in processed meat products. Their potential as binders and fat replacers in beef sausages was investigated through comparative assessment of technological, nutritional, physicochemical, thermal and sensory properties.

The research demonstrated how the functional characteristics of quinoa and amaranth ingredients influence product quality and established a scientific basis for selecting suitable flours and starches for different meat-processing applications. The findings highlight the potential of quinoa and amaranth to diversify functional ingredients, reduce reliance on conventional binders such as corn starch and soy, and support the development of value-added and potentially healthier meat products. Overall, the research contributes to ingredient diversification, sustainable food innovation, product development and potential commercial application in the meat-processing industry.





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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SCIENCE
(BIOCHEMISTRY)**

EKANDJO Annastasia K

**MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF DROUGHT
TOLERANT MARAMA BEAN (*TYLOSEMA
ESCULENTUM*)**

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Prof. Martha Kandawa-Schulz from the University of Namibia assisted by Prof. Percy Chimwamurombe from the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

The reality of climate change is pressuring scientists to investigate water usage by plants such as the drought-avoiding *Tylosema esculentum* (marama bean). This study therefore examined how *Tylosema esculentum* responds to water-deficit conditions at the molecular and biochemical levels. It focused on changes in leaves and tubers to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms supporting its ability to withstand water deficit.

The study showed that the response of *T. esculentum* to water deficit involves processes associated with stress signalling, osmotic adjustment, hormonal regulation and antioxidant defence. It identified drought-responsive genes and pathways in leaves. Furthermore, it revealed tissue-specific central and specialised metabolic responses, with more pronounced changes in leaves than in tubers. Together, these findings provide the first integrated characterisation of the physiological, transcriptomic and metabolic responses of *T. esculentum* to water deficit. The study also provides candidate genes and metabolites for future functional validation and the potential development of molecular and biochemical markers for drought tolerance. This knowledge provides a scientific foundation for further investigating *T. esculentum* as a climate-smart crop and a potential source of drought-tolerance traits for crop breeding and biotechnological applications.





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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SCIENCE
(BIOLOGY)**

ELOFF Lydia

GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE OF *PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM* DRUG RESISTANCE MARKERS, DIAGNOSTIC RESISTANCE, AND GENETIC DIVERSITY IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA (2017 – 2023)

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Prof Davis Mumbengegwi from the University of Namibia assisted by Dr. Jason Hendry from the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin, Germany

The study evaluated antimalarial drug-resistance markers in northern Namibia to generate evidence to strengthen malaria surveillance and treatment efficacy monitoring. This work is timely as Namibia faces a resurgence of malaria, with cases rising from 3,404 in 2019 to more than 100,000 in 2026, threatening progress towards elimination.

In the absence of recent Therapeutic Efficacy Studies (TES) for the current first-line treatment, molecular surveillance provides an important early-warning tool for identifying areas where treatment efficacy should be investigated. This study provides the first published, longitudinal evidence from Namibia demonstrating a high and increasing prevalence of *pfk13* markers associated with artemisinin partial resistance. Importantly, the findings have moved beyond academic knowledge generation to inform public-health action as findings from the study guided the Ministry of Health and Social Services in prioritizing sentinel sites where TES are currently being conducted. The work has also provided baseline genomic evidence supporting Namibia's participation in the Africa CDC Malaria Molecular Surveillance network, creating a foundation for routine molecular surveillance in Namibia. These contributions strengthen evidence-based malaria treatment policy, better outbreak preparedness and response strengthening elimination efforts, while contributing to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being and supporting Namibia's health priorities under NDP6 and Vision 2030.





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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GEOGRAPHY

ENKONO Angela Nahas

**THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF BUSH
ENCROACHMENT ON GRASS SPECIES DIVERSITY
AND RANGELAND ECOSYSTEM IN OKONDJATU,
OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Prof. Simon T. Angombe assisted by Dr. Absalom Kahumba both from the University of Namibia

This study provides an integrated assessment of bush encroachment by examining its ecological and socio-economic implications through four main research components.

It contributes to knowledge by providing a site-specific, integrated assessment of bush encroachment impacts within a communal rangeland system, an area that remains underrepresented in Namibian rangeland research. Unlike many previous studies that focus on commercial farming areas or single ecological variables, this research simultaneously examined grass species diversity, woody vegetation structure, soil properties, grazing capacity, and farmer perceptions.

By combining ecological measurements with local knowledge, the study advances understanding of how bush encroachment affects rangeland ecosystems and livelihoods at the village scale. The findings provide empirical evidence from Okondjatu, thereby filling an important spatial and contextual gap in bush encroachment research and offering a scientific basis for locally appropriate rangeland management interventions in communal settings. In summary, this study generates new, interdisciplinary knowledge that bridges ecological science and community-based perspectives, laying the groundwork for future research and more effective policy responses in communal rangeland systems facing bush encroachment.





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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SCIENCE
(MATHEMATICS)**

SHAAL Maria M

**MATHEMATICAL MODELLING OF TYPHOID FEVER IN
THE PRESENCE OF ANTIMICROBIAL
RESISTANCE AND CONTROL MEASURES**

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Dr. Josiah Mushanyu assisted by Dr. Samuel M. Nuugulu both from the University of Namibia and Prof. Farai Nyabadza from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

The study investigated the transmission and control of typhoid fever in the presence of antimicrobial resistance, treatment dynamics, and adaptive hygiene behaviour, with the aim of improving understanding of factors that influence disease persistence and control in resource-limited settings.

The study contributes to knowledge by developing a comprehensive mathematical modelling framework that integrates antibiotic resistance, antibiotic switching, resistance development during treatment, and adaptive hygiene behaviour in typhoid transmission dynamics. It provides a more realistic and cohesive representation of how treatment processes and behavioural factors interact to influence the spread and control of sensitive and resistant infections. The findings show that appropriate treatment switching can reduce the burden of resistant infections, while resistance arising during treatment can make disease control more difficult.

The study demonstrates that treatment alone is not enough to control typhoid fever and that improved hygiene and sanitation can reduce transmission, even when resistant strains are present. These findings emphasise the importance of careful antibiotic management, responsible antibiotic use, timely treatment switching, and strengthened water, sanitation and hygiene measures. The study provides useful information for designing effective and sustainable control strategies and offers a foundation for future policy-oriented research aimed at reducing the burden of typhoid fever.





School of Allied Health Sciences
Associate Dean: Prof Tonderai W Shumba



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PSYCHOLOGY
GONZO Eunice A

**THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN ORGANISATIONAL
CULTURE, EMPLOYEE ATTITUDES AND
ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE: A CASE STUDY
OF NAMWATER**

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Dr Manfred Janik (Main Supervisor), assisted by Dr Clifford Hlatywayo and Prof Poonam Dhaka, all from the University of Namibia.

The study investigated how organisational culture and employee attitudes interact and relate to organisational performance within a Namibian commercial state-owned enterprise. It sought to deepen understanding of the internal organisational factors that may strengthen or constrain effectiveness in the public-enterprise context, while also considering the influence of the wider operating environment.

The study contributes to knowledge by integrating an established organisational-culture framework with contextually grounded indicators of employee attitudes in Namibia. It developed an Employee Attitude Scale reflecting Sense of Fairness, Organisational Citizenship Behaviour, and Perception of the Work Environment, demonstrating the importance of locally responsive measurement. The study further proposed an integrated model linking employee attitudes, organisational culture, organisational performance, and external influences, thereby offering a more context-sensitive account of performance in Namibian state-owned enterprises. Its findings provide practical direction for organisational leaders and policymakers by identifying culture, fairness, employee contribution, communication, development, and work-environment experiences as important areas for organisational improvement. The research also expands the limited empirical literature on organisational culture and employee attitudes in Namibian state-owned enterprises and provides a foundation for further comparative research across African public-sector organisations.





School of Medicine

Associate Dean: Prof Jane Misihairabqwi



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY

MANO Runyararo

TOWARDS BUILDING A SICKLE CELL DISEASE NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM IN NAMIBIA: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Prof. Jane Misihairagbwi from the University of Namibia assisted by Dr Patience Kuona from the University of Zimbabwe

This study investigated the feasibility and potential value of introducing newborn screening (NBS) for sickle cell disease in Namibia. It examined the burden of sickle cell gene carriage among newborns, assessed the suitability of a point-of-care screening approach for routine healthcare settings, and explored the perceptions of communities, healthcare workers, and policymakers regarding the acceptability and implementation of a national screening programme

The study makes an important contribution to public health knowledge by providing the first locally generated evidence to inform planning for newborn screening of sickle cell disease using a point of care test and perceptions of stakeholders in Namibia. It addresses a critical evidence gap, establishes a foundation for future research, and demonstrates the potential for early detection services to be integrated into existing health systems. By identifying key implementation considerations, including public awareness, workforce capacity, stakeholder engagement, and resource mobilisation, the study offers practical guidance for policy development and programme planning. Its findings support efforts to strengthen child health services, facilitate earlier diagnosis and intervention, and contribute to long-term strategies aimed at reducing preventable childhood morbidity and mortality associated with sickle cell disease in Namibia. It recommends further research with a larger number of participants.





School of Nursing and Public Health
Associate Dean: Dr Stephanie Van Der Walt



DOCTOR OF NURSING SCIENCE

CHIHURURU Leonard

Title

**A COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION
PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH MENTAL
ILLNESS IN THE KAVANGO EAST AND KAVANGO
WEST REGIONS, NAMIBIA**

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Dr. Wilma Wilkinson assisted by Dr. Emma Nghitanwa and Dr. Manfred Janik all from the University of Namibia.

This study developed and validated a community-based rehabilitation programme tailored for individuals living with mental illness in the Kavango East and Kavango West regions. By synthesising the diverse lived experiences of local stakeholders with globally established healthcare guidelines, this research establishes a structured, expert-validated operational framework that effectively bridges the gap between grassroots needs and institutional policies. The resulting programme introduces an actionable blueprint equipped with clearly defined objectives, core therapeutic activities, measurable performance indicators, and strategic targets to systematically guide mental health support within community settings. The multi-dimensional impact of this framework spans critical social, clinical, and policy domains. Socially, the programme advances inclusion by fostering community participation and dismantling the pervasive stigma and discrimination frequently directed towards people with mental illnesses. Clinically, implementing this operational framework optimises healthcare resource utilisation by decreasing the duration and frequency of psychiatric hospital admissions, shifting the locus of care closer to patients' familiar environments. Finally, on an administrative and macroeconomic level, these empirical findings provide a vital foundation for comprehensive national policy development. The study offers the Ministry of Health and Social Services a practical, scalable blueprint to support regional rehabilitation centres, thereby transforming mental healthcare delivery within the Kavango regions.





School of Nursing and Public Health
Associate Dean: Dr Stephanie Van Der Walt



DOCTOR OF NURSING SCIENCE

NAKAKUWA Fillipine N

**A MODEL FOR NURSES TO FACILITATE THE
REDUCTION OF HEALTH DISPARITIES IN PRIMARY
HEALTHCARE FACILITIES, KAVANGO EAST REGION,
NAMIBIA**

The doctoral study was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Prof. Hans J. Amukugo assisted by Dr Lusia Pinehas, also from the University of Namibia

Health disparities remain a persistent challenge to equitable primary healthcare in Namibia. This study developed a nurse-led model to reduce inequities in primary healthcare, drawing on Kavango East Region as the empirical setting for generating contextually grounded knowledge. Kavango East Region was purposively selected for its context-specific interplay of social, individual, geographical and health-system factors influencing healthcare access, utilisation and outcomes.

An integrated methodological approach was employed to synthesise empirical findings with relevant theoretical and scholarly perspectives, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the determinants and mechanisms underpinning inequitable outcomes.

Findings demonstrated that health inequities are multidimensional, requiring coordinated action across individual, community, health-system and policy domains. This evidence informed an integrated, context-responsive framework to guide risk identification, address modifiable determinants, implement evidence-informed interventions, strengthen interprofessional collaboration, and evaluate outcomes.

The study makes an original contribution to nursing and public health scholarship by positioning nurses as strategic agents in advancing health equity. While grounded in Kavango East Region, the framework provides a transferable foundation for contextual adaptation, implementation and further validation across Namibia, with potential to inform equitable policy, strengthen primary healthcare practice and improve population health outcomes.



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