

A close-up photograph of a graduate wearing a black mortarboard cap with a gold tassel and a black gown with a gold stole. The background is blurred, showing other graduates. Overlaid on the image is the title 'A Celebration of NEW BEGINNINGS' in a large, stylized font. 'A Celebration of' is in a gold cursive script, and 'NEW BEGINNINGS' is in large, bold, block letters with a colorful, abstract pattern inside the letters.

Featured Stories

UNAM Spring Graduation 2025

The University of Namibia (UNAM), conferred 946 qualifications during its 2025 Spring Graduation Ceremony at the Mercure Hotel in Windhoek on 08 October 2025.

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NUST Spring Graduation

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) recently held its Spring Graduation Ceremony at the Mercure Hotel in Windhoek.

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“Innovate, Elevate and Dominate”

The River Higher Institute of Technology recently held its event at the Windhoek Country Club Resort under the theme, “Skills for vision 2030: Innovate, Elevate and Dominate.”

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Co-Founder's Note

"Celebrating the Beauty of Graduation and the Promise of New Beginnings"

Dear Readers,

Every ending holds within it the seed of a new beginning — and few moments capture this truth more vividly than graduation. Across campuses in Namibia and beyond, caps are tossed high into the air, tears are shed, and dreams take flight. It's a time of pride, reflection, and anticipation; a celebration not only of achievement, but of resilience, growth, and endless possibility.

In this special edition of Campus Connect, we honour the Class of 2025 — the dreamers, the doers, the innovators, and the change-makers. Each graduate's story reminds us that success is not only measured by the degree earned, but by the journey it took to get there: the late nights, the self-doubt overcome, the friendships built, and the lessons learned along the way.

This issue is also a tribute to new beginnings. Whether you're stepping into the world of work, entrepreneurship, further studies, or self-discovery, remember that the road ahead is yours to shape. We've curated inspiring stories, practical insights, and heartfelt reflections to guide and motivate you as you embark on your next chapter.

As Campus Connect, we remain committed to connecting students, graduates, and young professionals across Namibia — creating a platform where ideas grow, opportunities are shared, and young voices are amplified.

To the graduates: congratulations! May this milestone remind you of how far you've come, and how much more you're capable of achieving.

To our readers: thank you for continuing to grow with us. Here's to celebrating the beauty of graduation and the endless promise of new beginnings.

Stay connected,

Shinana Nghixulifwa
Co-Founder, *Campus Connect*



Teaching Profession Bill: Putting Learners First

(By: Sylvia Hashondali)



Images: Namibia Today

The Teaching Profession Bill, currently under nationwide consultation, promises to be a transformative step for Namibia’s education system. However, much of the focus has been on teachers and training institutions.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this reform will be students across Namibia. The bill seeks to elevate teaching into a respected and accountable profession. Once enacted, it will establish the Teaching Profession Council of Namibia, an independent body tasked with overseeing teacher registration and licensing, continuous professional development, and teacher training institutions.

In a recent interview with Campus Connect Magazine, Ayesha Wentworth, Director for Programs Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Education Innovation Youth Sport Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC), shared, “the bill will call for the establishment of a regulatory authority, which will be an independent body from the MEIYSAC, so that the authority will ensure the implementation of the act and its regulations,” adding, “we are presenting options of what this regulatory body would like the nation and then their inputs will determine the final product.”

For learners, this reform means greater assurance that the individuals guiding their education are not only qualified but are also held accountable through clear professional standards.

It signals an era where every child can expect consistency in teaching quality, regardless of where they attend school. The bill addresses unequal learning outcomes, which are a major issue in Namibia’s education system. Students who have well-supported teachers are more likely to succeed in their academics, develop key skills, and make a smooth transition to higher education.

This initiative is not just about raising the status of teachers; it is an investment in Namibia’s future generations. The consultations, which started on 15 September in the Khomas Region, are expected to be concluded on 17 October.





UNAM Spring Graduation 2025 Celebrates Achievement and Resilience

(By: Frieda Jona)



Images: UNAM



The University of Namibia (UNAM), conferred 946 qualifications during its 2025 Spring Graduation Ceremony at the Mercure Hotel in Windhoek on 08 October 2025. The event celebrated a joyful moment of achievement, resilience and hope, among the new graduates, their families and university staff.

Leading the ceremony, Prof. Ellen Namhila, UNAM’s Pro Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, applauded the graduates for staying strong through tough academic and personal times. “Your journey has not been easy, but your determination has brought you to this moment,” she said. “Use your qualifications to serve, innovate, and uplift your communities.”

The ceremony was graced by former President and UNAM Chancellor Nangolo Mbumba, who warmly congratulated the graduates and spoke about how education helps build a better future for Namibia.

Earlier ceremonies were already held in April at regional venues like the Ongwediva Trade Centre, Rundu Trade Fair Centre, Kamunu Hall in Katima Mulilo, and the Keetmanshoop Show Hall.

In his keynote message to the graduates, Vice Chancellor Prof. Kenneth Matengu encouraged them to look ahead with confidence. “Your UNAM qualification equips you with the skills and knowledge to lead, innovate and make a meaningful impact. Be a proud ambassador of your alma mater,” he said.

Among the graduates was Selma Nghidinwa, who earned her Bachelor of Education degree after four years of balancing studies, part-time work, and family responsibilities.

“Walking across that stage felt unreal,” she said. “There were days I thought I wouldn’t make it, especially during the darkest days I experienced during this journey. But today, I stood tall in my gown, knowing I’ve made my parents proud.”

Nghidinwa explained to Campus Connect in an interview that she plans to return to her home village in Ohangwena to teach and mentor young girls. “I want them to see that it’s possible, that education can change everything.”

As the Class of 2025 steps into the professional world, the Spring Graduation stands as a testament to their resilience, hope, and readiness to empower the nation.





NUST Spring Graduation

(By: Sylvia Hashondali)



Images: NUST

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) recently held its Spring Graduation Ceremony at the Mercure Hotel in Windhoek. Held under the theme “A Decade of Eminence: Celebrating Education, Science and Technology for Development,” the event also marked the University’s 10th anniversary since the enactment of the NUST Act of 2015.

In his address, NUST Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrew Niikondo, announced that a total of 899 students graduated this spring, comprising 458 females and 441 males. Of these, 88 Master’s degrees were conferred, 47 to females and 41 to males, while 9 Doctors of Philosophy (PhDs) degrees were awarded to 7 males and 2 females.

Prof. Niikondo also highlighted that 47 international students formed part of this year’s graduating cohort, while 91 students graduated in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, inclusive of 61 males and 31 females. In total, the 2025 NUST academic year saw an impressive 3,500 graduates across both the autumn and spring ceremonies.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of Her Excellency, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Prime Minister Dr. Elijah Ngurare congratulated the graduates, affirming that “It is through education that we transform lives, communities, and nations.”

Dr. Ngurare further applauded Namibia’s commitment to free education, announcing a major policy development.

“I proudly announce a historic milestone for our nation. From the 2026 academic year, education will be fully subsidized by the government,” Ngurare stated, adding, “This bold step is rooted in our conviction that education is the surest power to equality, prosperity, and national progress.”

Meanwhile, Ms. Norah Ndopu, NUST Deputy Chairperson of the Interim Council, extended heartfelt appreciation to the parents and guardians who supported the graduates throughout their academic journeys.

“We know that behind every graduate stands a network of support, families, guardians, and communities who have carried them with encouragement, made sacrifices and believed in the promise of education.



We salute you, your investment in these young men and women is not only a gift, it is not only a gift to them, but a profound contribution or an investment in the future of Namibia,” she said.

Reflecting on NUST’s decade of achievement, Ms. Ndopu commended the institution’s adaptability and perseverance. “Over the past 10 years, NUST has demonstrated remarkable resilience and foresight in navigating shifting educational landscapes. Global disruptions and accelerating pieces of evolving technological change through it all, the institution has remained steadfast in its commitment to sustainability, academic excellence, and national relevance,” said Ndopu.

The 2025 Spring Graduation Ceremony thus celebrated not only the academic accomplishments of its graduates but also the enduring spirit of innovation and transformation that defines NUST as a leading institution of higher learning in Namibia.

What does Graduation mean to you?



Ileni Josef
“Many of us come from backgrounds where accessible quality education is not just a challenge, but sometimes a distant dream. But today, because of the Namibia Training Authority’s generous investment and sponsorship in our futures, that dream is becoming a reality.”
- River Higher Institute of Technology (RHIT)



Martha Kambala
“Graduation is a reminder that no goal is too big if you work hard and stay committed. It’s a moment to celebrate growth, courage and perseverance.”- I-Care Health Training Institute

especially for the research ones I suffered there or trying to beat the queue at the UNAM Library or the 24/7 study centre. I made it through and earned this! It’s proof that I can start something big and finish it strong. The tassel was definitely worth the hassle. To all students still on the journey, stay focused choose your circle wisely, keep your faith strong and never give up, you’ll make it too.” - University of Namibia-UNAM



Kaine Nuugwang Paulus
“To me graduation is not just about receiving the degree. It’s a reminder about how far God brought me, through every challenge and sleepless nights it’s a celebration of my perseverance, faith and growth”- University of Namibia (UNAM)



Petrus Hashondali
“To graduate is to honour every sacrifice that was made to get here. It’s a moment of pride, reflection and gratitude for everyone who believed in me.”- University of Namibia (UNAM)



Indira Nanyemba
“Graduation means more than just receiving a degree it’s a celebration of growth, perseverance, and every late night that led to this moment. It reminds me that hard work truly pays off and that this is just the beginning of an even greater journey ahead.” - University of Namibia (UNAM)



Filemon Hamukoto
“Graduation means celebrating not just academic achievements, but the journey the challenges, lessons and people who supported me along the way.”- College of The Arts (COTA)



Secilia Pinehas
“Graduation means I finally won. It means all the stress, the 07:30 lessons (I hated those ones), the sleepless nights, days of not having something to eat. I actually completed the journey, no more panicking over deadlines

“Got Thoughts? We’re Listening!”

At Campus Connect, your voice matters. Whether you strongly agree, disagree, or just feel like sounding off—this is your space to speak your mind.



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Email: campusconnectmag@gmail.com

”



IUM Expands Free Russian Language Course

(By: Ivy Gaaitsoze)



Images: IUM

The International University of Management (IUM) has reaffirmed its commitment to global engagement and inclusive education by offering a free Russian Language as a Foreign Language course to all Namibians. The programme officially opened the Second Russian Language Training Session on 11 September 2025 at the Dorado Main Campus in Windhoek.

The event was honoured by the presence of high-profile delegates from the Perm State Humanitarian Pedagogical University (PSHPU) in Russia, led by Prof.Dr. Konstain Egorov, Rector of PSHPU and Dr Anastasia Vertyanova, Head of the Department of International Cooperation. The attendance signified the growing academic collaboration between IUM and PSHPU. Notably, the two delegates had also launched a similar Russian language centre at the University of Botswana, further demonstrating their commitment to expanding Russian Language and cultural studies across the Southern African Region.

The programme has attracted over 460 applicants, a testament to the rising national interest in foreign language learning and cross-cultural exchange. To ensure inclusivity, learners have been placed into Beginner, Elementary and Advanced levels which will cater to various levels of language proficiency.

IUM seeks to provide a strong foundation in the Russian language through this initiative, which will foster a meaningful international dialogue. The programme supports pre-university preparation, particularly for students aspiring to pursue higher education opportunities in Russian institutions.

The launch demonstrates IUM’s dedication to creating equal educational opportunities for all Namibians while simultaneously enhancing international cooperation among universities

The expansion of the Russian Language course at IUM exemplifies the university’s mission to create equitable educational opportunities for all Namibians. It also highlights the broader goal of strengthening international cooperation in higher education, fostering a future where language becomes a powerful tool for unity, opportunity and global connection.

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“Innovate, Elevate and Dominate”

(By: Sylvia Hashondali)

The River Higher Institute of Technology recently held its event at the Windhoek Country Club Resort under the theme, “Skills for vision 2030: Innovate, Elevate and Dominate. This marked the institute’s 20th graduation ceremony since its start in 1999 as Monotronics Success College.

The Institution, which did not have a graduation ceremony last year, had a total of 500 student graduates for the year 2025. Speaking at the graduation, Professor Daniel Nyaungwa, RiverHigher Rector, shared the Institute’s achievements for this year, stating, “ We have achieved an 85% pass rate on national examinations. We only had an 11% dropout rate, while 64% of our students managed to get a job attachment.’Nyaungwa also stated that 73% of the graduates are either employed or self-employed.

Hon Phillipus Katamelolo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, during his keynote speech, urged the graduates to remember that the skills they acquired at RiverHigher will be the foundation upon which they build their future.

“ As we innovate and dominate your respective field. Remember that your success is not surely measured by personal achievements, but also by the impact you have on others and the world around you,” Katamelolo said. RiverHigher Board Member, Lydia Ngipondika, shared with the graduates the challenges that they might face but would have to overcome.

Shesaid, “Namibia, like many developing countries, faces a lot of challenges, high youth unemployment, inequality, and limited opportunities,” adding, “The training you have received has the potential to not just work, but to lead, to innovate, and to create opportunities where none existed before. Remember that your journey is not just about ending and living, but making a difference.”

Moreover, Ileni Josef, a graduate in Diploma and Electrical Installations (Level 5) sponsored by the Namibia Training Authority (NTA), shared her gratitude for having been able to pursue her studies. For her, the sponsorship was a mode of confidence in her abilities. “Many of us come from backgrounds where accessible quality education is not just a challenge, but sometimes a distant dream. But today, because you believe in us and your generous investment in our future, that dream is becoming a reality,” Joseph said.

The qualifications achieved by the RiverHigher Institute have all been accredited by the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA), National Council for Higher Education(NCHE), and NTA, assuring quality education and international recognition for graduates.



Images: River Higher Institute of Technology



Welwitchia School of Agriculture and Nature Conservation Marks Milestone with First Graduation

(By: Contributed, Welwitchia University)



images: Welwitchia



The Welwitchia School of Agriculture and Nature Conservation (WSANC) celebrated a historic occasion on 18 July 2025, as 71 graduates completed their programs in key agricultural disciplines at the Mururani Campus in the Otjozondjupa Region.

The graduation ceremony featured an exciting real-time agricultural exhibition hosted by the Mururani campus trainees, showcasing their cultivated agricultural produce and farm machinery offerings for sale to parents, stakeholders, and the wider community. This live exhibition highlighted the students’ entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, and efforts toward economic diversification in agriculture.

This milestone is a proud moment not only for the students but also for WSANC, as it solidifies its role in providing quality technical and vocational training to Namibia’s youth. WSANC was established in 2022 as a pivotal subsidiary of the Welwitchia University Group with a focus on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Recognized and accredited by the Namibia Qualifications Authority and registered with the Namibia Training Authority, WSANC is committed to nurturing skilled professionals who can support Namibia’s agricultural development and contribute to food security and economic diversification. Located at Mururani, the campus boasts an impressive infrastructure that includes modern training workshops, a commercial farm spanning fifteen hectares, and recently completed accommodation facilities for trainees. These facilities provide students with practical, hands-on learning that reinforces theoretical knowledge.

Students cultivate agricultural produce that not only sustains the campus feeding program but is also sold commercially, integrating practical

business skills and community engagement. The programs offered range from National Vocational Certificates Level 2 and 3 in Horticulture and Crop Husbandry, Farm Machinery and Infrastructure, and Livestock Husbandry, to higher-level qualifications such as the National Vocational Certificate in Agriculture Level 4 and National Vocational Diploma in Farm Machinery and Infrastructure Level 5.

Admission requirements include academic qualifications and prior study in related subjects such as Agriculture, Biology, or Geography, ensuring students are well-prepared for their courses. The recent graduation ceremony was highlighted by a keynote address from Mr. Erick Fundula Nenghwaya, CEO of the Namibia Training Authority, under the theme “Catalyzing Youth Innovation for Food Security and Economic Diversification in Namibia.”

This theme encapsulates WSANC’s mission to empower young Namibians through education and practical skills that meet national development goals. Looking ahead, WSANC is evolving into Welwitchia Polytechnic, aiming to broaden its TVET offerings across multiple sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, business services, manufacturing, tourism, and more.

This planned growth aligns with Namibia’s Vision 2030 and addresses critical gaps in vocational training nationally. The graduation of these industrious students is a testament to WSANC’s dedication to excellence and its important role in shaping a skilled, innovative workforce ready to meet Namibia’s agricultural challenges and drive sustainable development. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 as they move ahead to make significant contributions to the nation and its economy.



Lingua College Marks Milestone Year with National Impact

(By: Frieda Jona)



Images: International Training College-Lingua

International Training College Lingua (ITCL) has graduated more than 1000 students this year, marking a significant milestone in its expansion as one of Namibia’s fastest-growing private higher learning institutions.

The graduation ceremony, held in Windhoek in July 2025, was attended by students, families, staff, and dignitaries, celebrated under the theme “A Legacy of Learning, a Future of Innovation,” highlighting the institution’s commitment to empowering individuals through education.

ITCL founder and chief executive officer Ingrid Kloppers-Mettler said the college’s growth reflects its mission to serve communities beyond the capital. “We celebrate perseverance, progress, partnership, and potential,” Kloppers-Mettler said. “Our graduates are not just receiving certificates, they are stepping into roles that will shape the future of this country.”

The college has recently opened satellite campuses in Rehoboth and Usakos, offering full-time, part-time, and distance learning options. These expansions aim to reduce barriers to education for students in remote areas.

ITCL’s graduates include professionals in education, business, communication, and public administration who have already secured employment and some have returned to their communities to contribute to local development.

The student representative council told Campus Connect that the institution had provided more than academic knowledge and that the college taught them how to lead, how to serve, and how to believe in themselves, which showcase how Lingua is playing a role in Namibia’s educational sector.

The college is currently transitioning toward full university status, with plans to introduce postgraduate programmes and expand its research capacity. The institution also runs vocational training and consultancy services, further extending its reach into the public and private sectors.





NIT SRC Officially Elect New Leadership

(By: Sylvia Hashondali)



Images: NIT

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) was filled with excitement and anticipation last week, as students gathered for one of the most important events on the campus calendar, the Student Representative Council (SRC) elections. From manifesto presentations to the final votes, the day reflected the vibrant democratic spirit of the student community.

In a recent interview with Campus Connect, Shahidah Neuaka, the 2025 NIT, SRC President, shared insights into this year's elections and what they mean for student leadership at NIT.

"The SRC manifestos and voting took place on 9 October 2025. It was an exciting day for the student body, filled with energy, ideas, and democratic engagement as candidates presented their visions and students cast their votes for the next SRC leadership," Neuaka said.

Neuaka indicated that this year's elections saw a strong turnout, with 20 candidates contesting across different portfolios and females taking the lead.

She said, "More young women are stepping forward to run for office, showing that leadership at our institution is becoming more inclusive and diverse."

Neuaka further shared that participation levels were higher than in previous years, with more students attending manifesto sessions and casting their votes. Thus, demonstrating that students are increasingly aware of the importance of their voices in shaping campus life. When asked about how fairness and transparency were ensured, Neuaka stated that strict election guidelines were followed, with independent supervision from management and collaboration with the Student Support Office.

Although the elections ran smoothly overall, a few minor logistical challenges were encountered. "We had some time management and technical issues," she admitted, "but our team worked quickly to resolve them and keep the process fair and efficient."



Looking ahead, Neuaka shared that the official announcement and inauguration of the new SRC members will be followed by a leadership transition workshop, where the incoming team will be briefed on their roles, responsibilities, and ongoing projects.

She also encouraged students to remain involved even after the elections, adding, "Leadership doesn't end at the ballot box, it continues through collaboration, participation, and dialogue between students and their representatives."

Active participation, she explained, not only strengthens democracy but also helps shape a more connected and progressive learning environment. "Student participation gives everyone a voice in shaping their campus experience. It builds accountability, unity, and leadership growth values that benefit both students and the institution," she said.

The 2025 elections at NIT stand as a testament to student empowerment, inclusivity, and the spirit of democratic engagement that defines campus life.

Your guide to smart Hygiene



DID YOU KNOW?

Your body actually feels happier when it's clean, Well, it turns out, cleanliness isn't just about smelling good; it's science!

Ladies



The vagina has got its own superhero system with a pH between 3.8 and 4.5, it stays slightly acidic to fight off unwanted bacteria. But when you use scented soaps, sprays, or go overboard with douching, you throw off its natural balance, and that's when villains like irritation and infections sneak in! So next time, stick to mild unscented soaps, and remember, **ONLY** wash the outside (the vulva), not the inside.

Here's another important tip, your choice of underwear matters more than you think! Regardless of how sexy those undies look, girl, you have to opt for breathable cotton fabrics instead of tight synthetic ones. Cotton fabrics allow airflow and help prevent moisture build-up, which can lead to yeast infections, something you don't want.



Gentlemen



You're in this story too! A quick rinse under the foreskin (if uncircumcised) keeps infections like balanitis away. Daily showers, clean underwear, and a focus on armpits and feet go a long way in keeping you fresh and fungus-free. Take note that your beard can actually host more bacteria than a dog's fur if not washed regularly! So, please, that beard deserves some shampoo love too.

One more thing, don't underestimate the power of proper grooming and hydration. Keeping your nails trimmed and clean prevents dirt and bacteria from spreading to sensitive areas of your body. Let's clear the air shall we? Grooming and self-care aren't just for women, and no, it doesn't make you any less of a man. In fact, taking care of yourself shows confidence, discipline, and respect for your body.



Fun Fact



The vagina is self-cleaning (no extra scrubbing needed!). And United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF's) Menstrual Hygiene Clubs in schools are helping both boys and girls understand that menstruation isn't gross ,it's natural.also victims of gender based violence.



Miss Triumphant College : A Crown Worn with Purpose

(By: Frieda Jona)



In a celebration of resilience, unity, and youth leadership, Triumphant College crowned its newest Miss Triumphant College during the annual Entrepreneurship and Cultural Festival held on the 2 October 2025 at Palm Trees in Windhoek, marking not just a pageant victory but the rise of a student ambassador determined to uplift her peers and represent her culture.

Balinda Uushona, a second year journalism student, who was crowned Miss Triumphant College 2025, stood out not only for her poise and presentation, but for her heartfelt commitment to service and empowerment. "Holding this title is more than just a crown to me," she shared. "It symbolizes leadership, service, and the ability to uplift others." Her journey to the crown was not easy. During the festival, she experienced an emotional breakdown backstage due to nerves. But in a moment that

captured the spirit of sisterhood, fellow contestants rallied around her with comfort and encouragement.

"Even though it was a competition, the other contestants came together to comfort and encourage me. That moment showed the true spirit of unity and sisterhood we share at Triumphant College," Uushona shared. Balancing academics, an internship, and pageant training, she faced challenges with confidence and time management. "I was up against such beautiful, energetic girls, and I really wanted to make a statement with my outfits," she admitted. "But through it all, I learned that it's just as important to enjoy the journey, to make new friends, learn new skills, and appreciate how much each experience helps you grow."

In a bold cultural statement, she chose to represent the Zulu tradition instead of her own heritage, emphasizing pan-African solidarity. "Culture isn't only worth celebrating when it's yours, it's about embracing all African traditions," she explained. "As sons and daughters of Africa, we are stronger when we celebrate each other's heritage."

Looking ahead, Miss Triumphant College hopes to revive the campus radio station, which currently operates only during student internships. She envisions a fully active platform where students can share ideas, promote events, and represent the college with pride. She also plans to launch a student wellness and motivation program focused on confidence-building, teamwork, and mental health.

"Empowering students goes beyond academics," she said. "It's also about helping each other grow personally and emotionally." Her reign promises to be one of action, inclusion, and inspiration—proof that at Triumphant College, leadership is not just worn, it's lived.



Images: Contributed

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Driving Excellence Through Skills: Reflections on the 2025 National Skills Competition

(Katrina Newaka)

The National Skills Competition (NSC) has become a flagship event in Namibia's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) calendar, celebrating the nation's most talented young artisans and professionals. Organised by the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) through WorldSkills Namibia, the 4th National Skills Competition, held in Swakopmund from 22–27 September 2025, once again demonstrated how skills development can transform lives, communities, and industries.

How would you describe the overall success of this year's National Skills Competition?

The 4th National Skills Competition (NSCS) was an outstanding success, both in execution and impact. This year's event not only showcased the exceptional talent emerging from our TVET institutions but also reinforced the relevance of technical and vocational careers to national development.

What was the turnout like in terms of both participants and spectators?

This year's competition attracted 40 institutions, represented by 179 competitors and 144 experts, marking one of the largest gatherings in our skills competition history. The turnout from the public was equally impressive, with schools, parents, and communities engaging enthusiastically throughout the week. The hospitality sector drew exceptional attention, particularly in restaurant service and culinary arts.

Which skill categories had the highest participation or interest from the youth?

Youth participation was particularly strong in technology-driven and hands-on trades such as mechatronics, automotive technology, mechanical engineering CAD and information technology. As mentioned previously, the restaurant service and culinary arts attracted remarkable attention and drew interactive experiences for members of the public to dine and be served as part of the competition.

What challenges did you face in organizing the competition, and how did you overcome them?

Coordinating a national event of this magnitude inevitably comes with logistical, operational, and resource-related challenges. However, with good planning, we strategically leveraged a significant portion of our in-house expertise from the Vocational Training Centres. This approach not only allowed us to effectively demonstrate the breadth and depth of Namibia's TVET capabilities but also enabled us to manage and contain operational costs. At the same time, it provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen capacity from within, fostering skills development, knowledge transfer, and institutional resilience across internally and partners.

How do you think this year's competition has contributed to changing perceptions about TVET careers?

Public perception of TVET is steadily evolving, and this year's National Skills Competition has further accelerated that shift. The professionalism, innovation, and confidence demonstrated by our competitors directly challenged outdated stereotypes about vocational education. We are grateful for the continued support from government, industry, parents, and training providers, whose collective efforts elevate the profile and value of TVET as a first-choice career pathway.



Katherine Newaka – TVET Advocacy Specialist (NTA)

Image: Contributed

Were there any new trades or skills introduced in this year's competition compared to previous years?

Yes, this year's edition featured a total of 16 trades, including two new and emerging disciplines carefully selected to align with Namibia's evolving economic and technological priorities, while remaining cognisant of global trends. By incorporating categories that reflect contemporary industry needs, the competition maintains its relevance and forward-looking orientation, ensuring that our youth are equipped with the competencies required to thrive in a dynamic and increasingly competitive labour market.

How does the NSC prepare participants for international platforms such as WorldSkills competitions?

The National Skills Competition serves as a critical preparatory platform for international competitions such as WorldSkills. It immerses participants in an environment that mirrors global standards, including assessment protocols, tools, and performance pressures. Beyond technical proficiency, competitors develop essential soft skills such as time management, teamwork, and innovation, qualities indispensable for success on the international stage. The Namibia Training Authority (NTA) provides technical preparation, while strategic partners are encouraged to support and even accompany the national team to the WorldSkills Competition 2026 as Observers, at their own cost, further enhancing collaborative capacity and experience.

What feedback have you received from industry stakeholders and employers about the event?

Feedback from industry stakeholders and employers has been overwhelmingly positive. Partners commend the calibre of talent showcased and recognise the competition's role in aligning TVET training with real-world industry demands. Many have expressed interest in deeper collaboration, through apprenticeships, mentorship, and curriculum input, to ensure that TVET continues to produce job-ready graduates.

Closing Thoughts

"The National Skills Competition is more than just an event, it's a national movement. The success of the 4th edition, held under the theme 'Elevating the Quality and Impact of Namibia's TVET Delivery Model,' speaks to our collective determination to look inward and take ownership of our development journey.

Through the support of government, industry, and parents, we are redefining the value of skills and building a Namibia that is capable, competitive, and inclusive. Every competitor, expert, and partner contributed to a shared vision, a better Namibia powered by skills excellence," Katrina Newaka.



NSCS2025

Future Proofing Namibia's Growth with Namibian Skills

Namibia's best young minds and artisans showcased excellence and innovation, through leveraging the power of skills competitively to build our nation at the recent National Skills Competition Swakopmund 2025.



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Developing the Future of Healthcare

(By: Sylvia Hashondali)



Images: I-Care



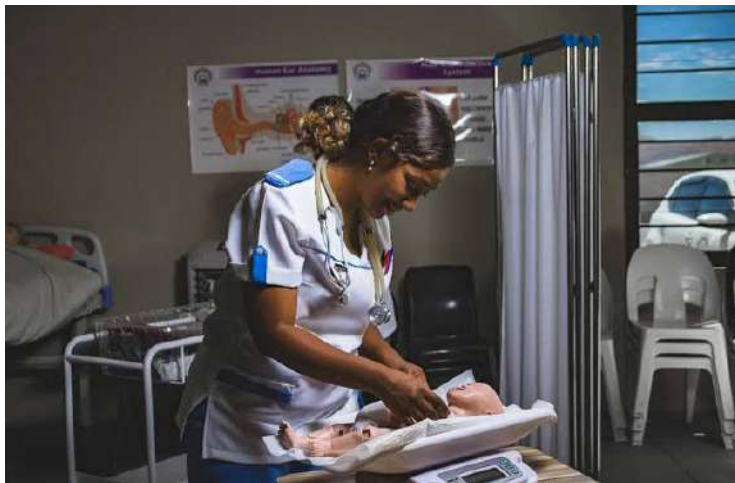
In a world where a nation’s health defines its strength and progress, the demand for talented and caring healthcare professionals has never been higher.

From bustling metropolis hospitals to small clinics in Namibia’s remote settlements, qualified health workers are the beating heart of the healthcare system, giving care, saving lives, and bringing hope where it is most needed.

At the forefront of this initiative is I-Care Health Training Institute, a Namibian private health training institution created in 2017 under the Namibian Nursing Act No. 8 of 2004. I-Care, founded with the goal of closing the healthcare delivery gap, is developing a new generation of health heroes who are both knowledgeable and compassionate.



Quality training is important because every injection, diagnosis, and word of comfort can impact a person’s life. In impoverished communities with limited access to medical facilities, the presence of a well-trained nurse or healthcare assistant can make a significant difference. These are the people that discover ailments early on, give critical care, and are frequently the first and only line of defence for patients.



From nursing assistants to community health workers, I-Care graduates are already making a difference in Namibia. Many have returned to serve in rural areas, giving healthcare to those who need it the most. Their work is changing lives, one patient and one pupil at a time.

As Namibia’s healthcare system evolves, institutions such as I-Care Health Training Institute play an increasingly important role. Investing in quality health education today ensures a healthier and stronger tomorrow.

DJ Leni: Spinning Purpose, Power, and Ubuntu Groove

(By: Frieda Jona)

In a story that began with a borrowed aux cord and a borrowed belief, University of Namibia (UNAM) student Elly Mtaleni Nangolo, well known by the name DJ Leni is now making waves across campus and beyond, blending academic ambition with musical mastery in a journey that’s as inspiring.

DJ Leni, a Sociology and Anthropology student, never imagined herself behind the decks. “I was never that kid who said, ‘I want to be a DJ,’” she told Campus Connect. “But music has always been my heartbeat.” Known among friends for her masterful knowledge of lyrics and moods, she was often the go-to curator at social gatherings. It wasn’t until university that her talent was nudged into the spotlight.

Encouraged by peers who admired her taste, Leni downloaded Virtual DJ and FruityLoops (FL) Studio on her first laptop. What started as a casual experiment quickly turned into a calling. Her first gig came unexpectedly, a friend’s DJ canceled, and Leni was asked to step in. “I was terrified,” she said. “But that night changed everything.”

Since then, DJ Leni has grown from a self-taught newcomer to a recognized name in Windhoek’s student nightlife. She’s performed at multiple campus events, built a loyal following, and even started crafting gig guides to keep up with demand. “Seeing my name on posters and hearing people shout ‘DJ Leni!’ when I walk into a venue, that’s my proudest moment,” she said.

But the journey hasn’t been without challenges. Without her own equipment, Leni spent weekends practicing at clubs that offered her space unpaid, unsupported, but invaluable. “I’d save taxi fare just to get there and back,” she recalled. “It was tough, but passion kept me going.” Balancing academics and gigs has required discipline. “Sometimes I’d DJ till 3 a.m. and still show up for class at 8,” she said. “But I came to Windhoek to become an educated Black woman who can hold her own in any room. That keeps me focused.”

Her studies have also deepened her understanding of music’s impact. “In the club, I see human behavior in real time. It’s like participant observation, people dancing, connecting, expressing. It’s sociology in motion.” Leni credits UNAM’s student community for much of her growth. “Being a female DJ already stands out, and my fellow students have shown me so much love,” she said. “It’s about representation showing young women we can take up space in unexpected places.”



Images: Contributed

Looking ahead, DJ Leni is building a movement called Ubuntu Grooves, inspired by the African philosophy “I am because we are.” Her sets fuse drums, chants, and poetry to revive pride in African identity. “I want people to feel proud to be African again,” she said. “To remember their roots through sound.”

Her dreams include global collaborations, cultural tours, and community upliftment which include building an orphanage and mentoring youth. “My journey is bigger than just DJ Leni,” she said. “It’s about Ubuntu, when one of us rises, we all rise.”

As she continues to spin beats and break barriers, DJ Leni remains a symbol of what happens when talent meets persistence and when a student dares to turn up the volume on her dreams.



Smart Shopping: Paying for More Than Just Convenience

(By: Kondjeni Ambinga)

Namibian supermarket checkouts are changing shape, and not just the plexiglass screens and card readers. Before Namibia was a case, "Smart shopping" systems and self checkout machines have redefined shopping experiences in supermarkets across the globe, changing how groceries are purchased.

Self checkout systems promise customers speed and control, meanwhile they promise retailers lower operating costs and greater data about shopping habits. However for communities riddled with high unemployment rates, these tradeoffs appear as cause for concern requiring serious public debates.

Smart shopping essentially is an umbrella term for in store technologies that make shopping more automated and data rich, using technologies such as scan as you go trolleys, AI assisted shed navigation, self checkout kiosks and cashier less checkouts. Self checkout kiosks let shoppers scan, bag and pay without a cashier; more advanced smart carts let customers scan while they shop and pay on the cart itself. Smart shopping is nothing new, with roots dating back to the 1980s, however it took two decades of cheaper sensors, better software and the push for omnichannel retail to make self checkout mainstream.

When supermarkets and retail stores in the United States and stores all over Europe first embraced self checkout systems at scale the first and most obvious effects of these rollouts were to reduce the number of staffed checkout lines. Early research by the American Economic Association and subsequent industry reporting show several consistent patterns; trade analyses show that self-checkout reduces demand for traditional checkout staff, thus can manifest in reducing cashier hours or the shrinking of entry level positions, this than directly affects part time and youth employment that flows through supermarkets.

Automation creates jobs in system maintenance, IT support and in supervised self checkout attendants roles, online order picking, shelf replenishment and loss prevention roles however these positions are fewer and typically require different skills that require supervision or retail training. The labour market is then left to struggle with absorbing displaced workers into new roles, although the net effect on displaced workers differs by supermarket chains, region and how aggressively self checkout systems have been deployed.

However the risk of theft, customer dissatisfaction with fully automated experiences, has prompted some retailers to hold back on fully redesigning their smart shopping models. Moreover academic studies and research have shown that while automation exposes many routine retail tasks to substitution, at a national level jobs continue to grow although growth is concentrated in other occupations and the workforce most exposed to automation face slower employment gains. To say, technology changes the type of jobs and which workers benefit most.

With a fragile labour market, Namibia's unemployment rate stands at 36.9% according to the Namibia Statistics Agency 2023 labour force census, with a specific high 44.4% youth unemployment rate. These statistics place Namibia among countries with the highest levels of unemployment. President Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah has continued to reiterate the "Namibians are too few to be poor", I add that Namibians are far too few to have such high unemployment rates. Model one of Namibia's largest private employers reporting to employ more 2300 employees country wide, this makes any changes to their labour model locally important.

Model formerly Pick n Pay officially opened their new store in Auas Valley in Windhoek on the 1st of October, which was described as a milestone in the Namibian retail sector by Vice President Lucia Witbooi who officiated the event. The store constitutes a multi million dollar investment for its parent company Olthaver & List (O&L), the Aus valley store is the first fully revamped roll out forming part of O&L group's larger mission to introduce modern shopping solutions while raising the bar in customer service as well as enhancing employment standards. The new store features a robotic assistant, the first of its kind in Namibian stores, the robot is designed as a navigation tool to help customers find their way around shelves. It also features four self checkout stations.



Image: Kondjeni Ambinga

However in a country where more than a third of the labour force is officially unemployed, the new system offers a possible stark future for many. The immediate and most visible effect will be fewer cashier positions, jobs that are filled by young men and women who need flexible, accessible employment, essentially this will make it harder for unskilled youth to find entry level employment. While Model may reassign some staff to online fulfillment, customer help or loss prevention, these roles require a degree of skills and sometimes tertiary education and training and may be fewer positions available than the displaced cashier roles. Without structured training by model many workers could find themselves out of work. However, international experience demonstrates that self-checkout systems can increase shrinkage if not managed, forcing retailers to either rehire staff for supervision or accept large losses, neither of which outcome is ideal for wage growth or stable employment.

I do believe that this provides an opportunity for Model and regulators, policymakers to shape the outcome of this new system rollout. Before mass deployment, Model should publish expected headcount changes and the companies plan for redeployment and retraining of their current workforce, policymakers should push for or incentives such an assessment. Model alongside parent company O&L can use this opportunity to invest in the skills of their current workforce to prepare them for the anticipated rollout, by investing in short courses in retail technology supporting, basic IT skills and customer services. This is a keen opportunity for social dialogue between corporate, Unions and government to negotiate transition pathways wage support, temporary redeployment and placement services to ensure that Models current labour force remains protected from potential labour cuts.

Smart shopping and self checkout bring real life benefits for many shoppers and clear efficiency gains for retailers. But in Namibia's labour context, the stakes of replacing human cashiers are higher than in much more developed countries, fewer alternative jobs exist, with a high youth unemployment the labour force cannot afford a mass loss of entry level jobs. Model, as a prominent employer has an opportunity to show how retail modernisation can coexist with social responsibility. If the chain and policy makers take proactive steps, phased rollouts, retraining and hybrid models, Namibia can gain convenience and competitiveness without sacrificing the fragile job opportunities so many young Namibians need.

If not we risk trading the warmth of community shops for the cold efficiency of kiosks, leaving a generation worse off and failing the country's youth. Kondjeni Ambinga holds a degree in Journalism and Media technology from the Namibia University of Science and technology, where she is currently pursuing an honours degree in Journalism and Media Technology. She is passionate about youth advocacy and ethical use of AI and technology to advance human lives.



COTA Celebrates 20th Graduation Ceremony

(By: Ivy Gaaitsiwe)



In a celebration of artistic excellence and academic achievement, the College Of The Arts (COTA) proudly marked its 20th Graduation Ceremony on 26 September 2025 at the iconic National Theatre of Namibia.

Held under the inspiring theme “Igniting Creativity, Inspiring Futures,” the event brought together graduates, educators, families and members of the creative community to honor a new generation of artists and visionaries poised to shape Namibia’s cultural and creative landscape.

Delivering her welcome address at the 20th graduation ceremony of COTA, Rector Ms Angelika Schroeder extended her warm welcome to graduates, families and distinguished guests. She highlighted Namibia’s growing role as a leader in sustainable development, driven by bold initiatives in green hydrogen and renewable energy. She stressed that these efforts go beyond science and economics, they also call for creativity, imagination and artistic expressions.

“We need designers to visualise possibilities and communicators to inspire action,” she noted. “The creative voice is essential to ensure Namibia’s green future is not only built, but also celebrated and understood by its people.” Addressing the graduates, Ms Schroeder reminded them that their imagination is their greatest resource and that their artistic contribution is vital to a society seeking meaning, beauty and innovation.

The graduation ceremony was graced by the presence of Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi, the Vice President of Namibia, who delivered an inspiring keynote address. In her speech, she emphasized the significance of the occasion, stating “It’s more than just a graduation, it’s a defining moment that not only reshapes your future but also the future of Namibia’s creative industry.”

Her words underscored the transformative power of education and its potential to drive innovation and growth within the country’s creative sectors. She also affirmed the Namibian government’s continued support for the creative industries, noting that the Namibia’s Sixth National Development Plan aims to cultivate an enabling ecosystem for the arts and creative sector, one that fosters human creativity and fuels sustainable development.

Images: COTA

Adding a personal and inspirational touch to the programme, esteemed COTA alumnus and guest speaker Kapanga Herson, now a respected sports journalist who graduated in 2007 shared heartfelt reflections and practical advice. He spoke to the graduates about the realities of entering the creative industry at a time of renewed national support and opportunity. Herson reminded graduates that a qualification is only the beginning of the journey.

“A diploma doesn’t mean you have a job, it opens the door,” he said. “What you do once you enter the room is what your COTA lecturers have prepared you for. You need the skills, because without them, you are not going anywhere.”

The event also featured a captivating live performance by the COTA Band, showcasing the exceptional musical talent nurtured at the institution. Their vibrant set added a festive and energetic atmosphere to the ceremony, serving as a reminder of the powerful role the arts play in bringing people together and uplifting the spirit of celebration.

The 20th COTA Graduation Ceremony stood as a powerful testament to the importance of creativity in shaping a sustainable, inclusive and imaginative future for Namibia. As graduates embark on the next chapter of their journey, they carry with them not only their qualifications, but also the responsibility and the opportunity to inspire change and ignite progress through their art.

Seen On Campus: Graduation



Seen On Campus: Campus Connect Activations



Ever wondered what really goes on behind the lecture halls and quiet library corners?



From secret crushes to bold pranks, students across Namibian campuses anonymously confess the wild, funny, and unexpected truths of campus life.



“There’s this one lecturer who makes me want to attend every class, because of his charisma.” - Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)



“I keep bumping into my ex on campus. It’s like the timetable was designed to test my peace.” - University of Namibia (UNAM)



“Sometimes I sit on campus pretending to wait for someone... I’m just avoiding going home too early.” - Namibia Institute of Technology (NIT)



“Sometimes I study in the library just to look productive. I read one paragraph and scroll for 2 hours.” - Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)



“I once answered a question confidently in class then the lecturer said, Interesting, but completely wrong.” - Welwitcha



“When the lecturer says, ‘This is not for marks,’ my brain immediately deletes the info.” - International Training College Lingua (ITCL)



“Fell for a campus crush who only talks to me when they need notes. I’m the notes plug and the fool at the same time.” - Triumphant



“I swear campus cafeterias need a loyalty card system. The amount of money I’ve spent there.” - University of Namibia (UNAM)



“I lowkey love seeing people dressed up on campus. It motivates me to stop wearing hoodies every day.” - Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)

“**Got Thoughts?
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At Campus Connect, your voice matters. Whether you strongly agree, disagree, or just feel like sounding off—this is your space to speak your mind.

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Varsities Ready for Intervarsity 2025

(By: Sylvia Hashondali)

The highly anticipated sports tournament, which many Universities in the country look forward to, is nearing its start. The Intervarsity Tournament between the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), the University of Namibia (UNAM), and Triumphant College will be taking place at the UNAM sports field on 17 October 2025.

The intervarsity tournament is a yearly sports event between various Universities in Namibia. The tournament fosters friendly competition between sports like football, basketball, volleyball, chess, and netball.

In a recent interview with Campus Connect Magazine, Triumphant College Student Representative Council (SRC), Morres Samuel shared excitement for the tournament, stating, “The tournament means so much to us as the college soccer team, we’re now getting the platform to showcase our talents.” Samuel shared that the tournament is not just about universities teams playing against each other, the tournament provides exposure to students.

“Coaches from bigger teams might come and scout their desired players for the Namibian premier league expected to kick start soon,” said Samuel. Furthermore, Samuel added that the tournament aims to instill a sense of pride and dignity in students as they represent their respective universities. As they anticipate a win, Triumphant college will be taking part in football, netball, basketball ,chess and volleyball as they express their readiness.

“We expect to win this tournament even though we are going to face tough competitors we will take the bull by its horns. We have trained and we are prepared to showcase the talent Triumphant College has in terms of sports,” said Samuel. The College will provide buses for supporters and the players to UNAM Main Campus for the tournament.

Meanwhile,former NUST SRC for Sports, Recreation and Culture, Alexander David and originator of the intervarsity tournament shared his expectation for a fair competition and expect every institution to put in their best and have fun.

David highlighted the intervarsity tournament as something that contributes to team building, making stronger relationships with both team mates and competitors.Furthermore, he indicated that the Intervarsity tournament was an initiative by NUST, and therefore, “it’s something we are proud of and want to build on.”



“It means that we have cultivated another culture that we can build on and cooperate with other institutions,” he said. Beyond the competition, the Intervarsity Tournament continues to serve as a platform that unites Namibia’s universities through sport, teamwork, and shared passion.



Images: Contributed

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