

# The Student Leadership Edition



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Ministry in the Room, Not on a Podium.

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# Ministry in the Room, Not on a Podium

By William Haraseb

On 27 July 2026, the inaugural Campus Connect SRC Leadership Forum took place at the Arebbusch Travel Lodge under the theme “Creating Tomorrow’s Leaders,” sponsored by MTC MARIS. At the heart of the day was something Namibia’s student leadership space has rarely seen: SRC delegates from institutions including UNAM, NUST, IUM, Triumphant College, Welwitchia University, Institute of Technology, River High Institute of Technology, College of the Arts, Windhoek Vocational Training Center, Lingua sitting face-to-face with senior government officials, free to ask the questions they don’t often get direct answers to.

Four senior officials from the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation gave up their time to engage student leaders directly: Deputy Executive Director of Higher Education, Director of TVET, Director of Arts, Director of Programme Quality Assurance.

What set the forum apart was the format. Rather than delivering prepared remarks and leaving, the officials stayed in conversation with SRC members, taking questions on the issues that follow student leaders home from every campus meeting, registration delays, funding uncertainty, the recognition of TVET qualifications, and where creative and arts programmes fit into national education priorities.

For many delegates, it was the first time they had been able to put these questions to the people directly responsible for them, rather than to a lecturer, an administrator, or a rumour mill. The ministry, it was a chance to hear, without the usual layers of process in between, exactly what is on the minds of the students their policies affect.



## Answers, and a Push Forward

Beyond fielding questions, each official used their time to speak candidly to the room about the road ahead for student leaders. The overarching message was consistent: the ministry sees SRCs not as a formality, but as a genuine partner in shaping the higher education system and it’s a partnership that only works if students keep showing up, keep asking, and keep pushing for the answers they deserve.

Dr Mundia spoke to the bigger picture of where the higher education system is headed and the role student leadership plays in helping it get there. Ms Mwiya used her platform to challenge outdated perceptions of TVET, encouraging delegates to see vocational pathways as a legitimate and valuable route rather than a fallback option. Ms Amagulu spoke directly to the value of creative and arts education, urging SRCs to keep advocating for the space and resourcing those programmes needed. Ms Wentworth unpacked what quality assurance actually means for students reassuring delegates that the systems checking their qualifications exist to protect them, not to slow them down.



Across all four, the underlying thread was encouragement: a reminder to student leaders that they are capable of shaping the system they’re part of, and an invitation to keep the lines of communication open long after the forum ended.

## Closing the Distance

Higher education policy often feels abstract until it becomes a registration delay, a funding gap, or a question mark over a qualification. SRC leaders are usually the first point of contact when students want answers to exactly those problems and until now, those questions often had nowhere to go. By putting the ministry in the same room as student leadership, the forum started closing that distance and gave SRCs something to take back to their campuses that mattered more than another set of promises: a direct line, and a clearer sense of where they stand.

## A First, With More to Come

MTC MARIS’s role as headline sponsor added a further layer to the day, showing what real corporate partnership with student leadership can look like. But it was the ministry’s presence answering, explaining, and motivating that gave the forum its weight. Positioned as an annual event, it has the makings of a fixture on Namibia’s student leadership calendar, and a standard for what government engagement with students can actually look like.

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# Orientation Ends, Reality Begins

By Elzehenny Harases



Elzehenny Harases  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Year 2

I still remember standing on campus that first week, completely lost. I didn't know where half my classes were, and the timetable might as well have been written in another language. UNAM was nothing like my high school. The sheer size of it hit me immediately. Thankfully, I had my sister with me to help me figure out where things were, but even with her help, it was still a massive adjustment. Nothing about orientation had prepared me for just how big and unfamiliar everything would feel.

If I'm honest, the two hardest things weren't even academic; they were registration and making friends. Orientation made both sound simple, but neither was. With registration, there was no clear direction on where to go next once you finished one step. And the frustrating part was that when I asked senior students for help, they'd often send me somewhere completely different from where I actually needed to be. I'd follow their advice, end up in the wrong queue or the wrong office, and have to start the search all over again.

Looking back, if I could speak to myself during that first orientation week, I'd say this: always ask questions, and know your SRC and school reps. Those two things would have saved me so much confusion and so many wasted trips across campus.

Nobody handed me a survival guide. For me, it was mostly trial and error figuring things out the hard way, one mistake at a time. The one constant I could rely on was my sister, who helped me navigate a campus that felt like a maze in those early days.

But the real "I'm on my own now" moment wasn't about finding a lecture hall or figuring out registration; it was academic. I quickly learned that lecturers aren't like high school teachers who spoon-feed you every detail. They're dedicated, genuinely, but with hundreds of students to teach, they simply can't give everyone personal attention. And because I'm naturally the type who holds back from asking questions, that responsibility landed squarely on my shoulders. If I didn't understand the material before the next lecture, that was on me to fix. No one was going to chase me down about it.

That's the part orientation never really prepares you for not the buildings or the timetables, but the shift in ownership. At UNAM, your education becomes your job.

# Failing a Test Isn't the End of Your Degree

By Carla Majiet

I remember checking the notice board outside the science block and just staring at my student number next to a mark that didn't look real. My first thought wasn't even "I failed." It was "there's a mistake somewhere." I read it about four times before it actually sank in. Then my stomach just dropped. I didn't cry, I didn't panic out loud. I just went quiet. I walked back to rest and didn't tell anyone for almost the whole day.

Nobody warns you about that first hour. Orientation tells you about registration deadlines and where the library is. Nobody tells you what to do with your face when you're standing in a corridor trying not to fall apart in front of people who are still laughing about their weekend.

Here's the part that scares me looking back at how fast one bad result turned into a full identity crisis. It went way beyond the test. I started asking myself if I'd chosen the wrong course. If I was actually smart enough to be at NUST at all. If everyone around me was just naturally better at this than I was.

That inner voice gets loud, and it gets loud fast. It wasn't "I did badly on one paper." Within an hour it had become "maybe I'm not cut out for this." That jump from one result to questioning your entire future happens way too easily when you're sitting alone with it.

## What I actually did about it

Once I'd calmed down enough to think straight, I forced myself to go see the lecturer during consultation hours. I was terrified, honestly I fully expected to be judged. I wasn't. They sat with me and walked through exactly where I'd lost marks, and most of it wasn't that I didn't understand the work. It was an exam technique. I was writing down everything I knew instead of actually answering the question in front of me.

That conversation changed how I studied completely. I switched to working through past papers instead of just re-reading notes. I joined a study group instead of trying to push through everything alone. I stopped leaving revision until the week before it mattered. I also had to retake the module, which meant carrying it alongside a full new semester of courses was not fun, but manageable once I actually had a plan instead of just anxiety.

That one result was never a verdict on my ability, or my course choice, or my future. In the moment, it felt like the end of something. Now I know it was just information, a sign that I needed to change my approach, not proof that I didn't belong here.

I also know now that almost everyone around me has a version of this story. They just don't talk about it. I wish someone had told me that on day one, instead of me finding out three years in.

## If you're the one holding a failed result right now

It's data, not a diagnosis. Go talk to someone before you let your own head write the story for you, a lecturer, a tutor, anyone because whatever you're telling yourself right now is probably louder and less accurate than what's actually going on. You are not behind. You are not the only one. And this is genuinely something you come back from.



**Elze Henry Harases**  
Bachelor of Business Management, Year 3

Campus Chat

# VOX POP

What is one thing orientation day didn't warn you about?



## Ronny Katjiheve

2nd year at College Of The Arts, African Performing Arts,

"I didn't know that the courses would be or the modules would be so difficult and also fun at the same time. And it's basically just the lecturers, man. The lecturers are so sweet. They're so sweet when it comes to the arts industry, and they understand you for what you portray and all that."



## Tangi Godknows Kupololo

College Of The Arts, Performing Arts, 2nd year

That there isn't enough lecturers here



## Sharvein Matroos

College Of The Arts, Music, 1st year

They didn't warn me about attendance. Attendance is really important. It counts 80% of your marks, and the rest is like 40% CA marks. So, yeah, that's one thing they didn't warn me about, which I only figured out later in the year. Yeah, so that quite caught me off guard because I missed out on quite a few classes, and I think they should have told us about that because it's more important

# Behind the Welcome Pack

By Nisha M.D Ramakhutla

I walked onto campus expecting breezy not a walk in the park, but breezy. What I got instead was a bit of everything: complications I didn't budget for, flaws I couldn't plan around, a workload that crept up until it was overwhelming, and in between it all, the good stuff too the chill afternoons just hanging out with friends. Nobody tells you it's both at once.

**IT ONLY GETS WORSE.** I say that and I laugh because it's the kind of thing you say when you're only half joking. I wish somebody had actually written that down and kept it real with me, instead of me finding out the hard way that university isn't fun the way they promised. Sooner or later, prioritising my studies is going to affect my personal life in some shape or form, no matter how carefully I try to balance the two. That's not pessimism. That's just what nobody says out loud during orientation week.

Here's the part I've had to teach myself: the more focused I am now, the more value I'm adding to my future. Hard work does pay off especially with God's help and even when failure creeps in, the best thing I can do is keep the focus, learn from the mistake, and keep pushing. Huffing and puffing over not getting an A in one module only leads to a lack of discipline everywhere else. One bad mark isn't permission to lose the plot on the other four modules.

Nothing could have prepared me for what I witnessed in my first six months of uni life. I wish orientation had shown us more of what it actually takes to grind through the schoolwork, instead of showing us the big buildings and promising us it's so much better than high school because clearly, it isn't, especially by second year. It's more responsibility, more accountability, all sitting squarely on you. And when things go wrong, you can't put the blame on anybody else. Just yourself.

That's the thing about the two welcomes. The first one came with warm regards and best of luck smiling faces, promotional pamphlets, a campus that looked like the future. The second welcome felt like a wake-up call: this is really life now, and I'm either going to let university life consume me, or let it build me into the person I was meant to become.

Nobody tells you that at orientation. I'm telling you now.



Nisha M.D Ramakhutla  
Bachelor of Finance Management, Year 2

# Under the Hood

By Alice Mutota

Orientation gave me the impression that NIT was a well-organized institution with clear communication, effective management, and well-defined procedures. That's the picture I walked in with. Once classes actually started, my experience told a different story. Policies I assumed would be common knowledge, like the 5% deduction for late or missed assessments, were never clearly explained or emphasized during orientation. It left me and a lot of other students, I'd guess, figuring out what was expected of us as we went along, instead of knowing it from day one.

Nobody warned me how demanding the course structure would actually be. There were weeks where tests, assignments, and exams from completely different modules all landed in the same week. Some days I had two assessments back to back, with no buffer day to prepare for the next one. On top of that, I wish the Integrated Action Project (IAP) had been broken down properly before we were thrown into it. Understanding its purpose, what it expected of us, and how it would be assessed that clarity earlier on would have saved a lot of stress.

The moment it really hit me was in first year, when we were expected to build our own business ideas and back them with actual products and practical evidence. I didn't expect entrepreneurship to sit so heavily alongside my biology studies. It was intimidating at first presenting a biology-based product to lecturers with engineering backgrounds isn't exactly a comfortable position to be in. I grew more confident with time, but that adjustment wasn't something orientation prepared me for. Neither was this: when students raised concerns or suggested changes, feedback or visible follow-through wasn't always immediate. That gap between what was promised and what played out was one of the bigger surprises of my first year.

Assessment policies and academic requirements deserved far more attention early on the 5% deduction rule, the IAP, leave procedures, and how practical versus theoretical work gets weighted. None of this is complicated once you know it. The problem is not knowing it soon enough. A clearer explanation from day one would have spared a lot of students unnecessary confusion.

Prepare for a journey that's challenging but genuinely rewarding. Get organized from week one. The workload builds faster than you'd expect. Don't underestimate projects like the IAP. Learn the institution's policies early and ask questions the moment something is unclear. Follow up on your own administrative matters too, because some processes move slower than you'd hope. Above all, be patient, manage your time deliberately, and stay consistent. NIT will push you academically, but it will also hand you practical skills that matter far beyond the classroom.

NIT gives you something valuable: real, hands-on learning that pushes you to think creatively and solve actual problems. But the student experience would be stronger with clearer communication, better explanations of academic policy, and more transparent administrative processes. If students walked out of orientation with a real understanding of assessment policies, the IAP, and institutional procedures, they'd step into university life with a lot more confidence and a lot less guesswork.

 [alice.mutota.7](#)



Alice Mutota  
Vice President and Academic Affairs, Diploma in Biomedical Sciences, Year 2

# Pulse Check

By Abigail Ndeya

When I enrolled in this programme, I didn't know much about it beyond the fact that it was related to transportation. I didn't walk in with a long list of expectations, just curiosity. Looking back now, I can honestly say my journey has been a positive one. The deeper I've gone, the more I've come to understand the industry, and I find myself enjoying learning a little more each day.

If there's one thing that hit differently than I expected, it's the workload. I had no idea the programme would cover such a wide range of modules or demand this level of commitment. It's been more intense than I imagined but I've actually enjoyed the challenge. It's pushed me to grow, not just academically, but personally too. There's a version of discipline you only find once something asks more of you than you thought you had.

I won't pretend I've faced some dramatic gap between the "ideal" experience and the grind, because honestly, I haven't had any major setbacks. The closest thing has been the occasional delay in school or campus activities. But even that taught me something: patience and adaptability matter just as much as academic performance. Nobody tells you that at orientation half the battle is learning to stay steady when things don't move on schedule.

My son is my motivation. He's the reason behind every lecture I sit through, every assignment I push through, every exam I prepare for. When things get tough, I remind myself that I'm not just building a future for me, I'm building one for both of us. That purpose keeps me focused, even on the days that feel heavier than others.

Be yourself. Don't let anyone pressure you into becoming someone you're not just to fit in. Stay open to learning. Ask questions when you don't understand something, and speak up when you need help. Nobody expects you to have it all figured out on day one. Everyone starts somewhere, and asking for assistance isn't a weakness. It's part of how you grow.



Nelao Haimbodi  
Transport Operations, Logistics & Freight Handling, 2nd  
Year, Year 1

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# You Will Grow Out of Your High School Self

By Trinity Maseke

In high school, I was that student. One hundred percent attendance, every single day, unless I was genuinely sick. I never bunked a class. That wasn't me. I stood firmly on the belief that if you wanted to pass, you had to show up every lesson, every day, no exceptions.

Now? I go if I feel like it. If I don't want to wake up for that 7:30 or 8:00 class, I don't. I sleep. I do what I want. And I still pass. That's the part that changed everything for me. In high school I believed attendance equaled success. On campus, I've learned it's almost the opposite. If you don't get enough rest, how are you supposed to perform at all? Your brain needs rest just as much as it needs information.

In high school, everyone knew me as the funny one, the short, funny girl. I wasn't the "baddie" until maybe my senior year, but the humor was always my thing. That identity still follows me a little. I'm still a funny person, generally. But it's not who I am anymore. These days, I think I'm known for always putting my outfit on point, my nails done, my hair done. I don't do sloppy. I don't do untidy things. That's my identity now, and honestly, I look the part too.

There's a friend group from high school I outgrew almost immediately after we left. It happened fast, and I knew it was time because they simply weren't prioritizing my feelings anymore. I won't go too deep into that one, there's still love there. It just didn't work out as a friendship in the end.

If my high school self saw me today, I think what would embarrass her is how much nonsense I can now tolerate. Back then, I said things exactly as they were. I called people out. No filter, no patience for foolishness. Now I've become... nonchalant. Chilled. Laid back. I don't entertain conflict the way I used to. I just keep quiet.

Here's the twist though the same thing that would embarrass her is probably also what would make her proud. Because yes, there are moments I probably should stand up for myself more. But there are also plenty of situations where I've realized it's just not that deep, and choosing peace over a reaction is its own kind of growth.

This is the one that still surprises me the most. In high school, I was never leadership material at least, that's what I told myself. People used to tell me to run for SRC, and I always refused, because deep down I knew I was too naughty, too much of a "problem" for that kind of responsibility.

Fast forward to campus: I'm now a class representative. I take initiative in group projects and assignments without being asked. And in my practicals, I've earned real respect in the hospitals because I show up eager to learn and genuinely excited to be there. If my high school self saw that, I think her

exact reaction would be: "Oh, we're like that now?"

There's a lot that's shifted between who I was in high school and who I am on campus now. University has forced me to grow up, to become independent, especially given the field I'm studying, the hard experiences that come with it, and the good ones too. It's been a mix of real growth, real challenges, and real life lessons, and I wouldn't trade the version of me it's built.



**Trinity Maseke**  
Certificate for enrolled Nursing and Midwife, Year 2

## What Screen Time Is Actually Doing to Student Mental Health

By William Haraseb

**M**ost students are on it far more than they'd guess. A 2025 study of health sciences students at Mogadishu University found 84.7% spent more than three hours a day on social media and heavy use was strongly linked to sleep disturbance, mental exhaustion, social isolation, and anxiety, with anxiety odds over 20 times higher among heavy users compared to light users.

**More scrolling tracked with worse mental health during real crises, not just theory.** Researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill found that college students who increased their social media use over an 18-month period were significantly more likely to report depression and anxiety, a pattern that held even after accounting for other pandemic-era stress.

**It's not just about mood it eats academic focus too.** A 2025 scoping review of college students found excessive social media use has been consistently linked to distraction and reduced academic focus, on top of anxiety and depression, making it a study-habits issue as much as a mental-health one.

The "connection vs. isolation" paradox is real. Research on first-year students found mixed effects: some genuinely use social media to stay connected to family and cope with the transition to independence, while others develop patterns of use linked to loneliness and worse mental health. The platform itself isn't the deciding factor how and why you're using it.

### DID YOU KNOW

Recent research published in JAMA Network Open (2025) on social media "detoxing" found reduced use was associated with improved youth mental health outcomes evidence that this isn't just a lifestyle preference, but something with a measurable effect in either direction.

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# What Orientation Week Left Out

By Faith Mujazu

Get yourself a side hustle, Nobody pulls you aside before day one to tell you this, but you'll need it: a side hustle. Printing assignments, cab money, food between classes. There's a lot of dead time between a morning class and an evening one, and it adds up fast. Figure out how you're funding those gaps early.

The exam structure is a mystery until it isn't. Here's the "wait, nobody warned me about this" moment: lecturers don't really explain the exam structure. And the part that makes it sting you only get to write a module once if you pass it. No second chances built in the way you might expect. You find this out the hard way if nobody tells you first.

The bus schedule is not intuitive. It took me a while to understand how the buses between campuses actually work. Triumphant does provide buses and drivers to shuttle students between campuses, which is honestly a huge help but there's a whole timetable behind it that I didn't know existed at first. I just assumed there'd be a bus whenever I needed one. There isn't. There's a schedule. Learn it early.

What surprised me most: there's barely any workload, Everyone warns you about the workload. Nobody warns you there might not be much of one. Most days I only had one or two classes, usually done by 13h00 at the latest. It wasn't the crushing schedule I braced myself for.

The one thing I'd add to orientation, Yes, it's the final stage of your education, and yes, it matters but don't forget to actually have fun. Meet new people. Explore things about your course you didn't expect to care about. You only remain young once, and you only live once.

And the embarrassing part, My most embarrassing new-student moment: I wore socks with open shoes, torn socks, for who knows how long and nobody told me. Found out way later. We've all got one of these stories. This one's mine.



virginia\_kamunima

Virginia Kamunima  
Journalism and Media Studies, Year 1

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# HIDDEN TALENTS



**David Herculano**  
Performing Arts COTA student, 1st Year (musician/composer)

Some students carry their talent on their sleeves. David Herculano carries his in his hands, resting on piano keys, shaping harmonies, and quietly holding entire performances together. Ask around campus, and most people know him as a musician. Few know he's already dreaming several steps ahead, toward a future behind the film score, not just the spotlight.

## Built Note by Note

Long before David ever stepped on a stage, he was learning a lesson that had nothing to do with music theory. "One of the greatest skills I developed through my time learning the piano is patience," he says. "Mastering an instrument takes constant practice, persistence, and the willingness to learn one step at a time."

That patience didn't stay confined to the piano bench. It became a way of moving through life. "It's influenced other areas of my life by trusting the process, staying calm, and remaining committed to the long-term goal." In a world that often rewards instant results, David's biggest skill might be his refusal to rush.

## When the Music Goes Wrong and Nobody Notices

Every performer's nightmare is the on-stage mistake, and David is no stranger to it. "Often playing music on stage, I would get lost, and my reaction would let the audience know that I made a mistake." But something has shifted with experience. "With time, I'm gaining the ability not to show it. I still get lost at times, but I've gained the ability to make every mistake part of the performance, staying calm and improvising my way back in, in a hardly noticeable way."

It's a skill that goes far beyond music: the art of recovering

gracefully, in front of an audience, without ever letting them see the seams.

## The Composer Behind the Curtain

While most people know David as a performer, fewer know about the talent quietly running underneath it. "One of the passions and talents I have that many people don't know is arranging music," he shares. "I actually aspire to be a film composer, and that gives me a deeper understanding of music beyond simply performing it."

It's this ambition to write the score rather than just play it that sets David apart as someone thinking about music as architecture, not just performance.

## Making Everyone Else Sound Good

Ask David about his strengths as a musician, and the answer isn't about being the loudest voice in the room. "I would say one of my strengths is being a steady teammate. When playing in an ensemble, our goal is to make each other look good, so I always try my best to lay the bed for my teammates through my harmonies on the piano."

It's a generous kind of talent, the kind that supports rather than competes, and often goes unnoticed by anyone who isn't paying close attention.

## Beyond the Piano

David's creativity doesn't stop at composition. "Besides music, I also have a passion for storytelling. I enjoy writing scripts and lyrics; this allows me to express the same emotions and stories that I communicate through music." For David, sound and story are two sides of the same language.

## More Than a Course

For David, music was never just a subject on a timetable. "Music for me is way more than a skill or a course that I'm currently studying, but rather a way for me to express myself and connect with people. Every performance, rehearsal, or jam session is an opportunity to learn, inspire, and make a meaningful impact through music."

It's this quiet, steady devotion, patient, generous, and always looking a few steps ahead that makes David Herculano one of Campus Connect's Hidden Talents to watch.



# Four Years Later: What I Know Now

By Ratombua Tjarukuru

I sat through orientation day just like you did. Same smiling seniors, same free pens, same speech promising me these would be the best years of my life. Three years later, about to graduate, I'm here to tell you the truth they left out.

"Best years of your life." That's the line they sell you on day one. I'm telling you now they lied. It's not that the university has no good moments. It's that nobody warns you what's actually going to come with the "fun" part: the pressure, the exhaustion, the days you spend more time in your own head than with your friends.

If there's one piece of advice from orientation that actually held up, it's this: never skip a lecture. I mean it. One missed lecture turns into two, and before you know it, you can't stop. That snowball is real, and it starts smaller than you think.

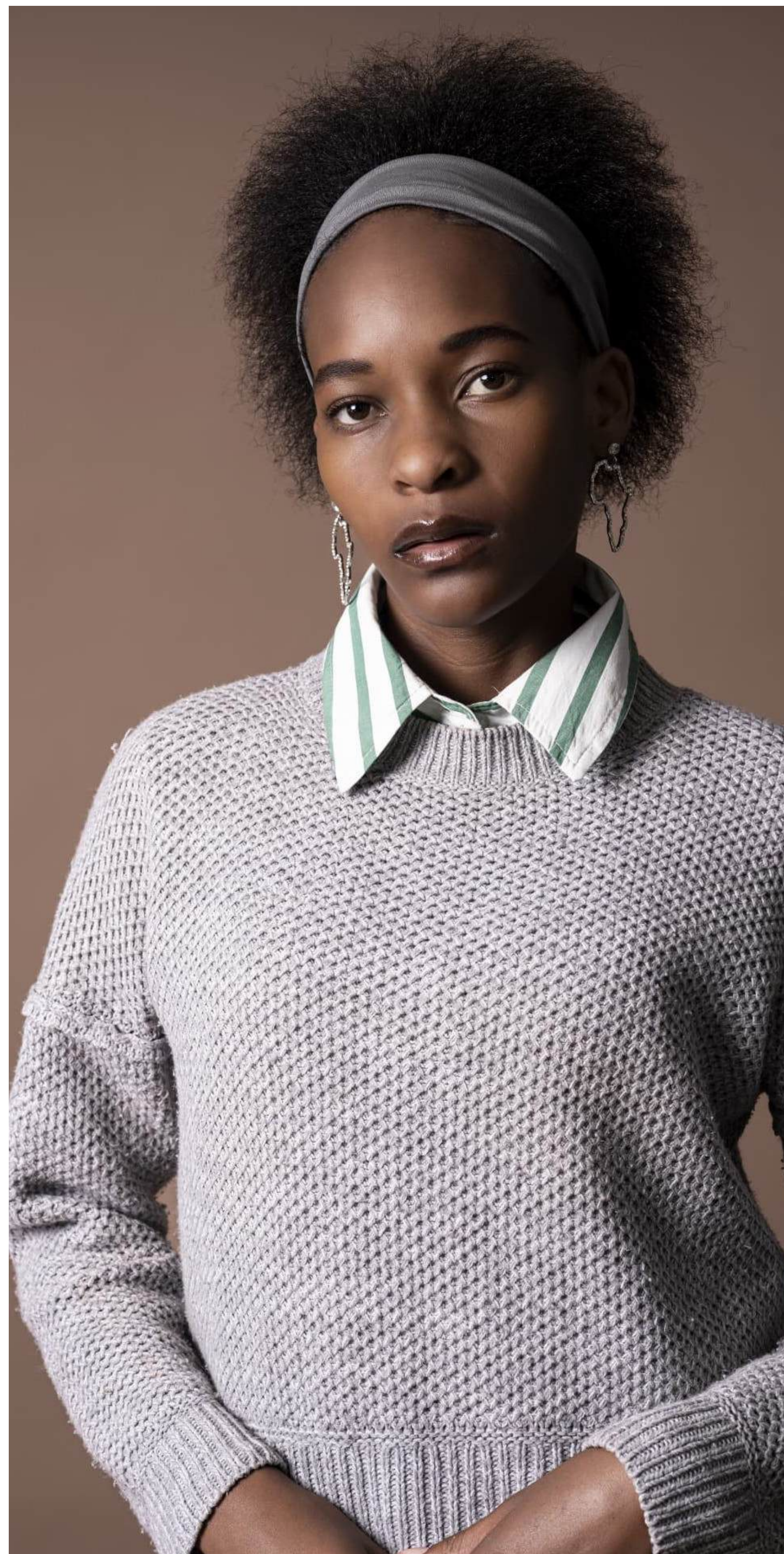
Here's what they don't put in the welcome pack. The hunger you feel being stuck on campus the whole day with nowhere to go. The fact that attending every single lecture still isn't enough. You'll go home and have to teach yourself the material all over again, alone. Nobody prepares you for that. And nobody prepares you for what it does to your mental health, watching that pressure build with no warning label on it.

I wish orientation had prepared me for the pressure of academics. I wish it had shown me the real version of campus life instead of dressing it up as all fun and games. Most of all, I wish someone had told me how much my mental health would be tested, not just my grades.

If I could go back and whisper something to first-year me. Two things. Build a better CA mark from the start, so you're not fighting for your life when exams come around. And protecting your peace, dating is not worth losing your degree over. Guard your mind first.

Life on campus won't be easy. It won't always be fun and games. There will be days you ask yourself, "is this even worth it?" And yes it's worth all of it. Because at the end of the day, that degree will open doors for you.

Orientation day gave you a welcome speech. I just gave you the fine print.



Ratombua Tjarukuru  
Bachelor of Human Resources Management, Year 3

# The Reality Check: Beyond What They Told You

Etupe Ashipala

Before Giovanni Petersen ever set foot on WVTC's campus, he had a picture in his head, one filled with intimidation. He imagined a world of older, sharper, more experienced trainees who already had it all figured out, while he would be left trying to catch up. It's a fear many first-years carry quietly, afraid to say it out loud.

"I expected WVTC to be scary," Giovanni admits. "There were people much older than me who were bigger, smarter and more experienced." But that expectation didn't survive contact with reality for long. "I realised that everyone is the same, and we are all in a learning process." That single realisation set the tone for everything that followed: a year defined not by comparison, but by growth.

## The Truth Nobody Puts in the Handbook

Ask Giovanni what he wishes someone had told him on day one, and he doesn't hesitate: "Nobody really cares about what you are doing, and everybody is too busy trying to make it." It's not a bitter observation, it's a liberating one. Once you stop performing for an audience that isn't watching, you're free to focus on your own progress instead of everyone else's opinion of you.

## Sports, Procrastination, and the Illusion of "Later"

Every trainee has a battle that tests them, and for Giovanni, it was balancing sports with the pull of procrastination. The fix wasn't glamorous; it was structural. "Setting up a schedule and following it, even if it's hard, even if I have to do it late, as long as it's completed in that timeframe or on that day."

What didn't work was the comforting lie so many people tell themselves. "I thought telling myself I would start next week, or that I'll do it when the time is right, would help, but it's all an illusion. You're just tricking your mind by choosing comfort over discipline and hard work." It's a hard-earned lesson, and one he now carries into every part of his training.

## The Advice They Won't Give You on the Tour

If Giovanni could sit down with every incoming freshman before orientation even begins, his advice would skip the polished brochure talk entirely. "Choose friends that will help you stay consistent," he says, because who surrounds you shapes who you become. And then there's the tool most students are told to put away rather than use wisely: "Use your phone right, because it is a tool that can lead you to success if used right."

## Was It Worth It?

No sugarcoating, no hesitation, Giovanni's answer is a firm yes. "Instead of staying at home and living in my guardian's house,

I was allowed to follow a bright path and be somebody in life to make a name for myself and be more independent."

That's the real reality check: WVTC was never going to be the world Giovanni imagined before he arrived. It turned out to be something better, a place that stripped away the illusions and handed him something real: discipline, independence, and a path he's building for himself, one consistent day at a time.



Giovanni Petersen  
Electronics Level 2, Year 1

# SEEN ON CAMPUS

A photo-led section showcasing campus life. Minimal copy, maximum visual impact.





# Read the Fine Print

By Eliaser T. Shilongo



thereal\_shilongo

Eliaser T. Shilongo

2025 Graduate, Lingua College, studied Accounting and Finance

When I first walked through the gates of Lingua College, orientation day had painted a picture in my mind, one full of vibrant campus events, local artists performing on weekends, and a social calendar packed enough to rival any university experience I'd imagined. That was the headline promise. The reality? A little different.

## The Campus Life That Wasn't (Quite)

Don't get me wrong, Lingua isn't dull. But the frequent entertainment and events we were promised turned out to be more like two or three standout moments a year rather than a constant buzz. What that taught me, fast, was that if you want campus life to feel alive, you and your fellow students have to build it yourselves. Nobody's handing you a social calendar you write your own.

That said, there's one thing Lingua absolutely delivers on without fail: graduation. Every single ceremony is polished, memorable, and genuinely emotional, with entertainment that makes the wait worth it. If nothing else, know that your final walk across that stage will be everything orientation promised and more.

## The Fine Print Nobody Reads Until It's Too Late

Here's something that catches a lot of students off guard in their final semester: outstanding tuition fees don't just sit quietly in the background. If you owe money going into exam season, you won't be allowed to write your papers until you've sat down with the senior finance department and worked

something out. Only after that meeting and their approval can you take your seat in the exam room.

Nobody tells you this on orientation day. But if you know it is going in, you can plan your finances early instead of scrambling in a panic during the one period you can least afford distractions.

## When "Fine Print" Becomes a Real Problem

Exam season taught me lessons that orientation never mentioned. The library, while a great resource, simply can't hold everyone who needs it during peak study periods. Finding a quiet corner to prepare for exams became its own kind of exam. On top of that, connecting your laptop or tablet to campus Wi-Fi wasn't always straightforward, which made pulling up study materials online more frustrating than it should have been.

These aren't dramatic revelations; they're the small, practical gaps that nobody spells out until you're living them.

## What I Wish Orientation Had Said Out Loud

If I could rewrite orientation day, I'd want incoming students to hear the truth about tech and study space from day one. Wi-Fi doesn't reach every classroom consistently, which means you might find yourself stepping out mid-lecture just to download materials before ducking back in. The student portal itself is solid, but it's not immune to downtime, sometimes from cyberattacks completely outside the college's control.

None of this is meant to scare anyone off. It's meant to help you walk in with your eyes open, ready with backup study strategies instead of being blindsided halfway through the semester.

## Reading Between the Lines

If there's one piece of advice I'd give every incoming Lingua student, it's this: your lecturers are your greatest resource. Use them. Having stood on both sides, as a student and as an SRC member, I've seen how genuinely invested our academic staff are. They understand this environment, and they consistently go above and beyond for their students, academically and personally.

So be proactive. Ask questions. Speak up when things get hard. Take every bit of support that's offered to you, because it's there; you just have to reach for it.

## The Bottom Line

Lingua College, like any institution, has its rough edges. But those rough edges don't define what your experience will be. What defines it is the people: dedicated lecturers who mentor and advocate for their students, and administrative staff who work alongside them to create an environment where students can genuinely succeed.

Orientation day gives you the headline. The real story, the one nobody fully tells you, is written by how you show up for yourself once you're actually here.



# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

## Owning the Field: One Student Leader's Vision for Sport at Ogongo Campus

By William Haraseb



Sport has always been more than a game to me. It is a lifeline, a space where students can breathe, grow, and discover parts of themselves that no classroom can teach. That belief is at the heart of everything I am working toward as Sports Representative at Ogongo Campus.

My vision is simple but powerful: make sport accessible to every student and build a genuine sporting culture at Ogongo.

We are a remote campus, and sport is one of the most important tools we have for student wellbeing. It reduces stress, keeps students active, and creates a sense of belonging that goes beyond academic life. I also want to encourage my fellow students to see sport as an opportunity, not just a pastime, but a path they can explore alongside their studies and beyond their fields of specialisation.



What many people may not know is that Ogongo Campus hosts both NFL First and Second Division games. We deserve facilities that match that level of competition. One of my priorities is ensuring the field gets proper stands and podium seating for supporters. Beyond the obvious benefit to players and students, quality infrastructure strengthens our relationship with outside supporters and opens new income-generation streams for the campus. It is about building something that lasts.

### A Season Full of Promise

The upcoming sports season excites me. We are going in with a clear focus: increase participation, sharpen team performance, and create more opportunities for students to compete and stay connected. I also want us to organise sporting activities that go beyond competition — events that bring students together and genuinely promote their welfare. When students feel seen and supported, everything else follows.

### Making Every Cent Count

On the financial side, I am proud of how our SRC is managing the sports budget. Every decision is guided by one question: what do students and teams need most right now? We are being intentional and responsible with every purchase.



At the same time, we are not waiting for the budget alone to do the heavy lifting. I am engaging sponsors from our surrounding community to partner with us, meet us halfway, and invest in the future of student sport at Ogongo. These partnerships are not just about money; they are about building a support system around our athletes and ensuring that every student who wants to compete has the resources to do so.

The field is waiting. The students are ready. And I am just getting started.



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