

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. NANGOLO MBUMBA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE CHANCELLOR'S ANNUAL CHARITY
GALA DINNER, UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA**

19 OCTOBER 2024

WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

**Check Against Delivery*

- **Prof. Dr. Kenneth Kamwi Matengu, Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia and members of his team present tonight;**
- **Ms. Dantagos Jimmy-Melani, Chairperson of the University of Namibia Foundation Board of Trustees and fellow trustees present tonight;**
- **Ms. Bernadette Bock, Executive Director of the University of Namibia Foundation and her team;**
- **H.E. Melody Chaurura, Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to Namibia;**
- **H.E. Zhao Weiping, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Namibia;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. I am grateful to join this distinguished gathering of esteemed friends and dedicated supporters of education. From the onset, let me express my gratitude for your presence here today and your commitment to education and the future of our youth.

- 2. Education is often referred to as the great equaliser, as it does not only unlocks doors towards economic independence but ignites passions and enhances critical thinking, thereby enabling people to dream bigger than they ever thought possible. Higher education in particular, plays a vital role in nation-building, profoundly impacting the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Therefore, I am delighted to join you tonight, in support of education.**

- 3. Today's event aims to engage with stakeholders, appreciate donors to this noble cause, and raise awareness on the significance of bursaries, particularly the UNAM Foundation Bursary Programme. Since its inception 30 years ago, the Programme has administered both corporate bursaries and the UNAM Students Financial Assistance, which covers non-academic needs.**

Director of Ceremonies,

- 4. Education has the power to uplift individuals and communities alike, and it is our collective**

responsibility to advance this fundamental right to the Namibian child.

- 5. Opportunities for accessing higher education are critical. However, these opportunities are sometimes inaccessible for most of our Namibian youth due to financial barriers. Thus, provision of essential financial support that helps cover tuition fees, textbooks, and living expenses is pivotal as it alleviates the financial burden on students and their families and makes higher education more attainable.**
- 4. By offering financial assistance that does not require repayment, bursaries help minimize student debt. In addition, when students feel financially secure, they are more likely to persist through challenges and complete their degrees, leading to higher graduation rates.**
- 5. Also, by targeting under-represented groups, bursaries promote diversity within higher education institutions. This inclusivity enriches the academic environment and ensures that a broader range of**

perspectives and experiences are represented and shared. Furthermore, it speaks to Government's efforts to maintain unity through inclusivity and diversity in our country.

- 6. Many bursaries are awarded based on academic merit; I therefore encourage students to be motivated by the incentive of a bursary and strive for excellence in order to secure themselves such opportunities.**
- 7. The spinoffs of investing in education through bursaries are manifold since it does not only benefits individuals but also contributes to the broader community and economy. Educated individuals are more likely to contribute positively to society, engage in civic activities, and support economic development.**

Director of Ceremonies,

- 12. The Government remains committed to making sure that every Namibian child obtains funding for institutions of higher learning through institutions**

such as the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF), Petrofund, the Social Security Commission (SSC), the Namibia Training Authority (NTA), and many more. Therefore, support, such as those of the UNAM Foundation, is critical to complementing Government efforts.

13. As we engage today, let us take a moment to celebrate the incredible stories and milestone achievements of the beneficiaries whose academic journeys were shaped by the UNAM Foundation's Bursary Programme.

14. Through the support availed by the UNAM Foundation, countless UNAM students are now professionals, contributing to the nation's socioeconomic development and nation-building.

Director of Ceremonies,

16. As we look to the future, the need for your support is greater than ever. Your contributions tonight can change lives, open doors, and build a brighter future for us all.

- 17. Imagine the ripple effect of your generosity: a student receiving a bursary today becomes a leader, an innovator, and a contributor to our nation tomorrow. Whether it is a one-time donation or a recurring commitment, every dollar counts and every gesture matters. Let us work together to ensure that financial barriers do not stand in the way of potential.**
- 18. Together, we can ensure that no deserving student is left behind due to financial limitations. Together, we can build a nation where every young person has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.**
- 19. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to education and for supporting this noble cause.**

Enjoy the rest of the evening!

I thank you.