

# Unam southern students affected by strike

STUDENTS at the University of Namibia southern campus are having limited access to library services at the time of their end-of-year examinations as the employees of the institution continue their strike action.

The Keetmanshoop-based institution's library usually opens at 08h00 in the morning, and closes at 22h00. But because of the strike, the library now closes at 16h30.

With the library closing early, students are not always able to access the necessary materials and books they need to study.

Unam employees countrywide,

including lecturers and supervisors, are demanding a 6% salary increase backdated to January 2018.

The strike started last Monday, and the protestors have said they will continue the industrial action until their demands are met.

Some of the students who spoke to Nampa on Friday said at times, they are faced with difficulties during the exams, such as seeking clarity on some questions as the appropriate people to guide them are not there.

"We cannot make any enquiries on the question papers as the lecturers are not there to guide

us," said one concerned student.

The exams at the institution have been going smoothly, but students are worried that their papers will not be marked, and they will not know if they are to write supplementary exams, which are supposed to start on 15 November.

"How will I know if I passed or have to go for supplementary exams, or even for summer school?" asked another student.

A spokesperson for the striking employees at the southern campus, Franco Maseke, told Nampa that they will only return to work once the university meets their demands.

"It is not fair for the students, as they need books from the library. This is not close to normal, it will compromise their performance, they cannot even ask their lecturers for explanations on topics that are not clear to them," observed Maseke.

He said if the situation continues, it means that those students have a high chance of failing and repeating the modules next year – which is a waste of money.

Maseke said they are appealing to the university to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

– Nampa