

Unam needs funds for completion of Southern Campus

KEETMANSHOOP – University of Namibia (Unam) Vice-Chancellor Professor Kenneth Matengu says the institution has no money for the completion of the first phase at the Southern Campus (SC) in Keetmanshoop and external help is needed.

Construction of the first phase of the structure, situated in the Noordhoek residential area, was supposed to be completed last September, after an earlier postponement, but was stopped due to financial constraints.

On completion it will amongst others house four lecture halls, four geoscience laboratories, one classroom, administration offices, a disability access ramp, lecturers' offices, a boardroom, ablution facilities and study areas.

Matengu, speaking at a stakeholder's engagement here on Wednesday, added it is clear that the government has no money and it is time for various stakeholders to hold hands and raise the necessary funds for the completion of the building.

"We cannot depend on the state as it has no money for capital projects; let us join hands and see how we can solve the problem, we must ask ourselves if there is anything we can do to complete the building and move on to other future plans," said Matengu.

He also challenged the regional government in finding ways to secure funds to help the university, noting that the university can make a



Unam Vice-Chancellor Professor Kenneth Matengu

huge impact in their region.

"As a regional government when you are planning, you should also plan so that the university has an impact in your region," he said. Keetmanshoop Mayor Gaudentia Kröhne, speaking at the meeting, said it is time for the private and public sector to come on board and help the university.

"We know there is a saying that there is no money, perhaps the university can go into a public-private partnership to acquire the funds needed. I urge the private sector to go into this PPP with Unam for the completion of the centre for the southern child," she said.

//Kharas Chief Regional Officer, Beatus Kasete, said the construction should be finalised by the Ministry of Higher Education and Innovation, adding it is only fair if the ministry

comes out to provide information on how much money they need to complete the campus.

"It is unacceptable that the ministry is starting with the construction of a vocational training centre here while the other building is standing halfway – we need clarity on this issue," he said.

The Unam first phase commenced in August 2016 and is expected to cost the university over N\$80 million. So far, N\$30 million has been spent according to information provided to Nampa by Unam public relations officer John Haufiku.

Earlier this year, Unam SC Assistant Pro-Vice Chancellor Eroid Naomab said the structural features have been completed but they amongst others need funding for tiling, painting, furniture, landscaping and equipment. - *Nampa*