

Students at UNAM Northern Campuses lead Cancer Awareness and Empowerment for both Women and Men

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In a continued effort to address critical health issues and empower students, the University of Namibia's Northern Campuses – Hifikepunye Pohamba (HP), José Eduardo dos Santos (JEDS), Oshakati and Ogongo – hosted two key events in September 2024.



The Directorate of Student Affairs, through its Careers & Student Experiences Office, in collaboration with Student Counsellors and Peer Educators, organised a Cancer Awareness & Prevention event on 12 September, followed by a Sexual Reproductive Health Forum under the Empower Her Series on 14 September.

The Cancer Awareness event, held at the Oshakati Campus Main Hall, aimed to raise awareness about cervical, breast, and prostate cancers.

Students were educated about early detection, prevention strategies, and the importance of regular screenings in improving cancer survival rates.

Specialist doctors from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, along with survivors sharing their personal stories, made the event particularly impactful.



“It’s important that we create platforms where students can learn about these diseases and take proactive steps for their health,” said Ms. Ina Asino, Student Counsellor at Oshakati Campus.

She Cares and Man2Man Initiatives gain momentum

Two days later, the Empower Her Series focused on promoting safe environments and well-being for female students, with discussions on sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and the challenges faced by young mothers in academia.

Ms. Genesia Shipena, Student Counsellor at Hifikepunye Pohamba Campus, stated, “This forum is not just about information; it’s about creating a supportive environment where our young women can thrive despite the challenges they face.”



These initiatives tie into the 2023 launch of the *She Cares* and *Man2Man* initiatives, which focus on empowering female students and promoting healthy masculinity respectively.

The *She Cares* initiative, which includes the Young and Expecting Mothers (YEM) Project, offers resources and support to help young mothers balance academic and personal responsibilities.

“The *Man2Man* initiative, launched alongside *She Cares* in 2023, aims to redefine masculinity, encouraging men to address mental health and break away from toxic societal norm,” expressed Ms Asino.

Through these events, the Directorate of Student Affairs continues to create an inclusive and supportive environment, addressing the holistic needs of students across the northern campuses.