

UNAM Vice Chancellor highlights achievements and future plans in State of the University Address

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On Tuesday, 22 October 2024, the University of Namibia Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Kenneth Matengu, delivered the highly anticipated State of the University Address at the Southern Campus in Keetmanshoop.

The address, which was livestreamed on UNAM's online platforms, provided insights into the University's achievements, challenges, and future directions, with a special emphasis on the southern region.



In his speech, Prof. Matengu celebrated UNAM's role in advancing education across Namibia, highlighting the University's contribution to producing skilled professionals in various fields.

"Over the past 32 years, UNAM has become a pillar of higher education in Namibia, continuously adapting to meet the needs of our society," he remarked.

The Vice Chancellor pointed out that UNAM now ranks 24th among the top 100 universities in Africa, underscoring its commitment to excellence.

Southern Campus keeps expanding and growing

Reflecting on developments at the Southern Campus, Prof. Matengu noted the growth in student enrolment, expansion of academic programmes, and ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure.

He emphasised the University's focus on aligning its programmes with the needs of the region, particularly in sectors like geology, renewable energy, and community engagement.



“Our mandate is not just about education, but also about fostering sustainable development through research and innovation,” he stated.

During the event, Prof. Matengu engaged in a Q&A session, responding to questions from the audience in the hall and online viewers.

Key issues raised included infrastructure improvements, financial management, addressing student debts, and salary increases for staff.

The Vice Chancellor acknowledged these concerns, assuring that the University is committed to finding sustainable solutions, particularly by seeking strategic partnerships and funding.

Looking ahead, Prof. Matengu highlighted several initiatives, including the upcoming inauguration of the state-of-the-art Technology Lab at the Southern Campus, which promises to boost research capabilities in geology and energy sectors. The lab was sponsored by Rhino Resources Ltd., who provided hardware, and Halliburton Company, which contributed to 3-year software licenses.

He also stressed the importance of expanding digital learning platforms and enhancing research facilities across all campuses.

The address set a positive tone for the week of celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the Southern Campus, signifying UNAM's ongoing efforts to innovate and respond to the educational needs of Namibia.