

“Ondjila Eyi Aenda” Former President Pohamba’s legacy celebrated at UNAM

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A momentous occasion unfolded at UNAM’s Hifikepunye Pohamba Campus in Ongwediva on 15 November 2024, as former President Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba launched his historical autobiography, *Ondjila Eyi Aenda* (*The Footprints of Hifikepunye Pohamba*).



The event brought together learners, student teachers, educators, government officials, diplomats, business leaders, and community members to celebrate the life and legacy of one of Namibia’s most iconic leaders.

Dignitaries, including retired Emeritus Bishops Apollos Kaulinge and Josephat Shanghala, renowned author Tatekulu Abednego Lesheni Nghifikua, Oshana Governor Elia Irimari, and Police Commissioner Naftal Lungameni Sakaria, joined learners from local schools and UNAM students to honour the former President’s contributions to Namibia’s history and education.



The more than 400-page autobiography, a labour of over five years, is the result of a collaborative effort between the former President and Professor Ellen Ndeshi Namhila, UNAM's Pro Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.

The book recounts Pohamba's journey from his humble beginnings in Okanghudi village in the Ohangwena Region to his pivotal role in Namibia's liberation struggle and eventual presidency.

Reflecting on the challenges of chronicling such a rich history, **Professor Namhila** noted: *"We are talking about a memory spanning over 70 years. Tatekulu Pohamba's life has been one of purpose, marked by struggle, resilience, and a deep commitment to freedom. Despite enduring beatings, imprisonment, and suffering, his spirit remained unbroken, dedicated to liberating Namibia and securing a brighter future for its people."*

In his remarks, **Former President Dr. Pohamba** expressed gratitude to UNAM for renaming the former Ongwediva College of Education in his honour and presenting his book to the community for educational purposes.



He urged young Namibians to engage deeply with the autobiography: *“This book, Ondjila Eyi Aenda, seeks to deepen our understanding of Namibia’s historic efforts for freedom. I encourage our young generation to read it closely, draw lessons, and find insights that relate to their own lives and our nation’s future progress. Writing this book is an extension of the struggle – a way to educate, connect, and stay close to the people’s needs, sharing both good and challenging times.”*



Proceeds from the book, priced at N\$490, will support the Hifikepunye Pohamba Foundation's scholarship programme, which funds students pursuing agriculture studies, with the goal of ensuring food security in Namibia. Over 70 copies were sold at the launch, with funds directly benefiting this noble cause.

Mr. Armas Joseph, a student teacher who attended the event, shared his excitement: *"Witnessing this historic moment was inspiring. Hearing the Former President speak about his life and lessons gave me a sense of purpose as a future educator. The book will not only preserve our history but also motivate us to make meaningful contributions to Namibia's future."*



The event highlighted the Hifikepunye Pohamba Campus's vital role as a centre for education and community development. It also reinforced UNAM's promise to preserving Namibia's history while fostering opportunities for future generations.