

# New skills lab for vet students in Namibia

■ Lucie Mouillaud

**W**INDHOEK - The University of Namibia (Unam)'s Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Neudamm campus Wednesday inaugurated two Clinical Skills laboratories for the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The school created in 2014, targets to follow the mandatory conditions asked by the World Organisation of Animal Health: that students be

“day-one competent”, meaning they have to be able to work just after their graduation.

To achieve this objective, Unam lecturers are committed to teach 200 clinical, surgical and medical competencies demanded by the Namibian Veterinary Council to the students.

With these prerequisites, they will be able to work with all kinds of animals, for all the tasks that have to complete a veterinarian.

“This includes food safety

and security, handling and welfare of a variety of species, production and reproduction, and of course a host of infectious diseases that can affect all animals,” explained Professor Frednard Gideon, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Academics Affairs at Unam.

This inauguration arrives just on time for the 18 fifth-year students, the first veterinarians that will be graduated and trained in Namibia.

“Before this lab, we had to go to other clinics outside the campus to practice, but



**Real life training...** Fourth and Fifth year students at Neudamm Campus doing experiments in the lab

Photo: Lucie Mouillaud

since last week we began working here, and practice for dentistry for instance,” explained Lee-Monique

Anderson, one of the fifth-year students at Neudamm.

The next step for their sixth and last year is a hospital training of three months in South Africa, in partnership with the University of Pretoria. This would be followed by internships and clinical rotations in Namibia to perfect their trade.

According to

Dr Alphons Mosimane, the Assistant Pro-Vice Chancellor of Neudamm, the new labs are a result from long budgeting, discussions, negotiations, but are a great opportunity for Namibia to train its own veterinarians.

“And it's only the first step, we have long-term plans for the School of Veterinary Medicine of Neudamm,” said Mosimane.

\* Lucie Mouillaud is a journalism intern from Toulouse, south of France

# Gender ministry decentralises its services

■ Nuusita Ashipala

OSHAKATI - In its quest to bring development closer to the people and to enhance participatory democracy, the Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Lucia Witbooi yesterday handed over decentralised functions to 14 regions

service delivery at grass root level.

She said it will also further ensure socio-economic and cultural development, as it will provide people at the grass root level an opportunity to take part in own decision making and thus extend democracy.

Also speaking at the same event, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural

functions that have been transferred are indeed making a difference in the lives of the community.

He said government will have a close eye on the regional leadership to ensure that there are periodic reviews of the impact as well as full accountability of the utilisation of the human capital and financial resources that are part of the