



**ADDRESS BY:  
THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT  
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF IUM GOVERNING  
COUNCIL  
HON. PROF. DAVID RICHARD NAMWANDI AT THE  
20<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION CEREMONY ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

- **Director of Ceremonies**
- **Chancellor – Bishop Emeritus Dr. Shekutaamba Vaino-Vaino Nambala**
- **Members of IUM Governing Council Present**
- **Prof. Charles Makanyeza, Ag. Vice Chancellor of IUM**
- **Dr. Hendrina Udjombala, PVC: Administration & Management**
- **Dr. Demus Makuwa, Senior Advisor in the office of the IUM Founder on Quality and Institutional Compliance**
- **Prof. Kingo Mchombu, Advisor to Chairman and Governing Council**
- **Members of IUM Management, Directors and Deans of Faculties**

- **Distinguished invited guests**
- **Academic and Administrative staff**
- **SRC and the entire student body**
- **Alumni present**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Members of the Media**

Director of Proceedings, IUM is a university dedicated to its people`s future.

- This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this fine university`s existence.
- Because history is on our side and continues to be on our side the growth trajectory of IUM is phenomenal.
- Pause for a moment, 1994 in a tiny room in a rented house in Windhoek north – a seed was planted – one student, one lecturer. It is just unbelievable that the seed germinated and produced plants that are currently bearing fruits, what a vision!
- Under extremely difficult conditions a university was born – inaugurated and started, hitting the ground running. Competing with the best nationally, regionally and globally,

IUM has grown in leaps and bounds. Priding itself with a student population of just under 20,000 (twenty thousand) – with satellite campuses in five Namibian political regions.

- The road we travelled to bring us to where we are today was thorny and full of serious tribulations – but we thank the most high, the creator of heaven and the entire universe.
  
- I pay tribute to the first student and all those who went through the doors of this university, I am speaking of more than 30,000 (thirty thousand) graduates who are today making immense contribution to our economy, the proud flagships of our institution. Allow me to pay tribute to our administrators and staff members past and present. These are the people who made IUM what it is today. They sunk and floated with us. They identified themselves with the vision and mission of this institution and run with it – Kudos to you all.
  
- When I look back, I become emotional, emotional because I think I owe Namibia and its people for the support they have accorded to us – IUM. I am a firm believer in the expression that says “God forgives all sins but has a problem to forgive those who are ungrateful. As I always say, I will die a happy man, because an institution which was once called a “mickey

mouse university”, became a household name, a serious force to be reckoned with. A vision which was conceived 30 years ago, spearheaded by a disadvantaged humble villager, has eventually become a national pride, not only now but for generations to come.

- Throughout our journey, we've encountered numerous challenges. It has not been easy. It was not a walk in the park, but through perseverance, diligence, dedication, and the unwavering support of our government and leadership, we overcame those obstacles and emerged stronger than ever before.
  
- I will fail in my duties if I don't applaud the progressive Namibian governments first under the leadership of His Excellency Founding President Dr. Sam Nujoma, and his successor H.E. Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba (my boss) as well as under the leadership of late President H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob may his soul rest in peace and now under His Excellency Dr. President Nangolo Mbumba. Had it not been for the conducive environment created for us as private entities to operate in, this story, IUM story couldn't have been told today. Thank you, my people of good will, – stay put as we promise to deliver the goods.

Mr Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, in this Winter Convocation we shall be graduating Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Two (2302) graduands with whom we shall be celebrating their academic achievement today as they will be conferred the following qualifications;

- Three (3) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degrees
- Sixty (60) Masters Degrees including MBAs, and M.Ed Degrees
- Sixty-eight (68) Postgraduate Diplomas
- Other relevant statistics have been given by the Vice Chancellor. May I, therefore, congratulate all the graduands for your outstanding performance!

In doing so, I would like to particularly congratulate the graduands who are pioneers in the following brand new programmes as they are the first graduands of the programmes;

- Doctor of Philosophy in Sustainable Development
  - Master of Science in Water, Sanitation and Health Engineering
  - Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration
  - Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy and Management
  - Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety
  - Certificate in Sustainable Ocean and Aquaculture Management
  - Certificate in Transport and Logistics Management among others
- I now turn to the special people who brought us here today and who have joined the more than thirty thousand (30 000)

professionals who went through the doors of this fine University. You have made us proud, certainly your efforts and dedication shall not go unnoticed, but may I hasten to say that you have joined the labour market, which is very cruel and merciless, it is a survival of the fittest, and it is my conviction that you will be one of the fittest.

- You have made history today and will continue making history in my view as education never ends. Education 5.0 can be attained wherever you are as long as technology favours you, so don't stop studying as that is the only sure way for you to remain relevant lest you become obsolete.
- Dear graduands, IUM is unique, and it is my prayer that its graduates should be unique too. Unique because they will be disciplined. They are unique because they will live within their means. Our graduates shall not expect anything from the world as the world doesn't owe them anything, they will work hard for their living and create work and wealth for the nation.
- If you go out there as per my expectations and portray acceptable and decent behaviours, if you go out there and be seen to be humble, kind and caring the university's reputation will be enhanced.

- Clearly the market is tiny, jobs are hard to come by, but the labour market still absorbs graduates, count yourselves to be one of those who will be absorbed, why not?
- We are told some graduates are jobless because they are themselves to blame. Ask me why? During the interviews some of them don't vindicate or market their CVs properly, when asked tough questions they start blaming HEI's that they were not properly prepared. I urge you to have confidence in yourselves and believe firmly that the sound education you have received here, will make you move mountains.
- Remember as from today you are on your own so do yourself a favour and deliver. Humble yourselves as pride comes before a fall.

Director of Proceedings,

Some of the impressive infrastructure IUM has created in the last two years stands out as a symbol of our long-term vision for this institution. At the Dorado Campus, the facility has proven to be in adequate for our expanding student needs and we have had to expand to the CBD by opening another Branch "Independence facility" to support the City branch where space has proved

inadequate. The modification of the DRN Square to accommodate the IUM Business School has been finalised.

At the Ongwediva Centre of Excellence in Education, the expansion of facilities is almost completed. The upgrade of the Library is completed and new lecturing facilities are already in use. All this is in view of the expansion and demand for education programmes in the northern region of our country.

The most exciting development, however, is the construction of a new Campus at Eehnana to take over students who cannot be accommodated at Ongwediva but also to open up IUM to provide university education to students from that region and neighbouring countries. The construction of this Campus is expected to be completed by September 2024 and if all goes well the first cohort of students should be enrolled in the following year 2025.

At Swakopmund, the construction of a high-tech Research, Training and Conference Centre, is underway and will also be operational by 2025.

The Coastal Campus at Walvis Bay will shortly have its Purpose-Built Facility to accommodate the growth in student numbers in response to all the new programmes which have been introduced



in that Campus to deal with studies of Blue Economy and Climate-related challenges.

Our country faces challenges, including but not limited to rising costs of utilities, traffic congestion, and housing shortages in urban areas. Rural regions are impacted by climate change, experiencing erratic rainfall every year. With over 70% of our population being youth, according to the recent 2023 Census report, as a university, we must create sustainable employment initiatives not only in urban but in the rural areas as well. We are mentioning these challenges not to magnify them, but to present them as potential gateways for our graduates to explore as opportunities. My trust is ready to receive applications for funding (seed capital).

In all our good endeavours, there are those who attempt to politicize IUM. Let me be unequivocally clear: IUM is an institution dedicated to impartation of skills through research and innovation nothing more nothing less. We will not yield to any pressures that are fashioned to compromise our integrity and deviate from our sacred course and core mission.

I thank you all!