

VETERINARY PHARMACY GRADUATE

A First for Namibia

The University of Namibia strives to be the nonpareil in pursuing and attaining success and development through the members of its diverse community. The institutions aspirations allow it to grow from strength to strength - breaking barriers and becoming the stepping stone to attain the nation's directives and initiatives. It is through UNAM's venerated School of Pharmacy Deputy Associate Dean, Dr Vetjaera Haakuria that the institution has achieved another acclaimed milestone. The Deputy Associate Dean was recently conferred by Harper Adams University with a postgraduate diploma in Veterinary Pharmacy, making him the first to acquire such expertise in Namibia. Dr Haakuria is a PhD holder in Biopharmaceutical Production (Vaccine Production). This new qualification adds a professional dimension to his pharmaceutical training.

"Veterinary pharmacy actualises interdisciplinary co-operation between pharmacists, veterinarians, epidemiologists and other health professionals to tackle global health challenges including antimicrobial resistance, drug residues in food, pandemic outbreaks and zoonosis. Since most infectious diseases that affect humans come from animals, pharmacists require requisite knowledge to recognise zoonosis in order to fulfil their public health role," Dr Haakuria accentuated.

The attainment of such very rare knowhow by Dr Haakuria has spearheaded the development of a Veterinary Pharmacy Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme to be introduced in the coming year. "With this specialist expertise, UNAM can occupy the Veterinary Pharmacy space firmly in the sub-region. It's been an exciting four years to learn about all these new dimensions to health and to look at health from an entirely new perspective," Dr Haakuria highlighted.

A postgraduate diploma will follow the CPD programme and this will be a signature programme for UNAM in general and the School of Pharmacy in particular. "I



Dr Vetjaera Haakuria, Deputy Associate Dean: School of Pharmacy

am convinced that this new field will shine light on the low hanging fruit to safeguard human and animal health in a broader context. Its crosscutting nature makes this new field valuable for settings where people live in close proximity with animals, domestic and wild," Dr Haakuria further emphasised. A recent example being the over 100 hippos that died from anthrax, along the Kavango river in the Bwabwata National Park.

The qualification comes at a time where the expansion and diversification of qualifications offered at UNAM are striving to achieve and exceed Vision 2030 and the various National Development Plans.

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PRACTICAL RESEARCH TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), recently held a successful joint conference, Practical Research towards Sustainable Economic Growth and Social Development. The Conference provided a platform for empirical research dialogues on national and international development plans such as the Harambee blueprint and the Fifth National Developmental Plan (NDP5), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and Agenda 2063 plan of the African Union.

The aim of the conference was to map out effective policy implementation strategies that will ultimately contribute towards sustainable development through dialogue between academic, government and non-governmental institutions and organisations.

A total of about 40 papers were presented at Conference over the two days, cutting across multidisciplinary and team research in the two faculties.

THE PRICE OF LOYALTY

The Persendts have been part of the UNAM community since the mid-90s and have seen the institution grow from a single Campus to 12 Campuses countrywide, from 20 years and now in celebration of its 25th Anniversary! The couple are both lecturers at UNAM and are beneficiaries of the esteemed Staff Development Fellowship offered by the institution where they both acquired their Master's and Doctorates, respectively.

"UNAM has given us the leeway to grow and has presented my husband and I with a lot of options for career growth and we are grateful for that", Dr Rosa Persendt highlighted. She further mentioned she is proud to be part of UNAM and feels passionate about the institution. "Our journey at UNAM has not been easy, with ups and downs along the way. We have remained loyal and UNAM has reciprocated tenfold", Dr Frans Persendt stated. He further emphasised that people should adapt to situations, demonstrate commitment and always put the interest of the institution's clients first.

The couple further noted that UNAM belongs in the top best employers to work for in the country, as it has the best environment to work and raise a family. "We were studying in different countries whilst pursuing our post-



graduate studies but UNAM allowed us to visit each other and supplemented our living expenses regardless of the scholarships and bursaries we had acquired", the pair stressed.