

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Outline of the Presentation

1. Introduction: Namibia's challenges since independence
2. University of Namibia's responses
3. HIVAIDS Programming Effective? The Way Forward
4. Concluding Remarks

1. Introduction: Namibia's Challenges since Independence

- Reviving and sustaining economic growth
- Reducing inequality
- Creating employment
- Eradicating Poverty
- Reducing Regional development inequalities
- Promoting good governance
- Fighting HIVAIDS – NDPI, NDPII, MTPIII
- Endorsing and Implementing Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

b) Millenium Development Goals (MDG)

- **Goal 1**
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- **Goal 2**
Achieve universal primary education
- **Goal 3**
Promote gender equality and empower women
- **Goal 4**
Reduce child mortality

- **Goal 5**

Improve maternal health

- **Goal 6**

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

- **Goal 7**

Ensure environmental sustainability

- **Goal 8**

Develop a global partnership for development

2. UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA'S RESPONSES

a. Programmes and Student Enrolments

1992 – 2000	Students grew from 2000 – 9000 despite cross-border “poaching” from South African Universities
2003	Student population 9500 (10% from other countries)
2004	1506 graduated
2005	1512 graduated
2005	President Nujoma, 75, enrolled as a master's degree student in geology.

b) From Military Barracks and Bullets to Blackboards, Pens, Mathematics and Science; E-learning and ICT

- Pre-entry Foundation Programmes
- Life-long and distance Learning programmes
- AVU, with teacher education, distance education on HIV/AIDS to be introduced soon

c) **UNAM at the forefront of Challenging the Challenger - - HIVAIDS**

- HIV/AIDS Policy adopted 2001
- Senate Approved HIV/AIDS Five Year Strategic Plan (2003 – 2007)
- Activities with students; staff; UNAM Community; external community
- Consultancies for NGO's; AAU; World Bank
- Links with other institutions - - Pretoria, UWC; Toronto to commence 2006
- Research and several publications

3. HIV/AIDS Programming Effective? The Way Forward

- Although considerable progress has been made; programming has not been fully effective - - mainstreaming remaining one of the major challenges.
- Effective response not possible unless there is effective leadership; partnership, community mobilisation; enough resources.

Way Forward - - - Suggestions for future

- Collaboration and Partnership with:
 - UNDP, NEPAD, and AAU
 - UNESCO – creation of UNESCO chairs on ECD; HIV/AIDS, and “twinning” arrangements.
 - Commonwealth of Learning in distance education
 - North/South; and South/South Collaboration

LEARNING FROM EXCHANGE VISITS

- Learning from Exchange Visits
- Enables exchange of information and sharing of “best practice”; and “what works”; and “what does not work”.
- Enables sharing of resources – SADC Protocol on Education and Training

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In a globalised world, there is need for equity, diversity, building of democracy and good government.

This implies:

- The responsibility of African leaders.
- The responsibility of University and other tertiary leaders

- The responsibility of the rest of the nations and bilateral and multilateral organizations as affirmed by UNICEF Progress of Nations, 2000
- The responsibility of each one of us individually and collectively

- *They say:*

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Enthusiasm is contagious. Be a carrier”

Susan Rabin and Barbara Lagowski

I would merely add:

“Commitment and determination are contagious. Be a carrier”

I THANK YOU!