



Namibia Career Service platform

MANY young Namibians face the problem that they do not know what to do after finishing Secondary School.

Plenty of them have only heard of University of Namibia, Polytechnic and the Vocational Training Centres as tertiary institutions in Namibia to which they often do not have access due to financial reasons. This situation prevails in spite of existing support systems in Namibia. NamCareerService by welwitschia.org is passionate to making a change in the lives of these Namibian youth by providing them with numerous

options to career development and access to financial support towards higher education. On their Facebook page, they publish offers for bursaries, internships and apprenticeships. German-based association “Welwitschia – Education Initiative for Namibia” stands behind the career platform. It is an initiative of former weltwärts-volunteers to improve the education situation in Namibia and to keep up the partnership between Namibia and Germany. The initiative is well connected and does a lot of research to find offers by Namibian com-

panies and global associations and compile the information to their platform. On their Facebook-page, they not only publish current scholarships but also answer questions posted by the users. More than 350 Namibians have liked the page so far and the number is growing daily and rapidly. The platform is based on Facebook since they are convinced that they reach most young Namibians online. As part of their package, NamCareerService offers a scholarship worth N\$7 500 to be awarded to talented young Namibians to further their educa-

tion. The application is open for all who casts about financial support for his or her continuing education, no matter whether it is a study course at university or any other programme of further education. NamCareerService by welwitschia.org is the only platform in Namibia that collects information for young Namibians who seek educational advice and financial support and is filling this niche. Find more about them on their Facebook-page: www.facebook.com/NamCareerService - Phillipp Walter



The Flip Side

Chris Jacobie



The tragedy of a divide

THE accident in which seven young people died in the Zambezi Region, previously Caprivi, is a tragedy that should not be in vain, but should rather be a monument to the victims, allowing Namibians to explore their individual and collective souls and values.

The Namibian reality is that most of the Namibian children are part of extended families, and have been put through school by sweat, blood, tears and toil of single mothers, grandmothers, uncles and aunts who rely on them to one day also take care of them when strength, sight and hearing fail and when old age and frailty set in. The loss of seven lives ripped out and shattered the hopes and dreams of many more, as if their very own lives came to an end.

The loss of the seven schoolchildren of one of Namibia’s most remote regions points out painful truths that should be more painful than the accident itself. The seven youth, amongst them five children or students who have just finished their end-of-year exams is every parent’s worst nightmare, and will haunt survivors, the injured, family and friends for life.

The fatal night of deserved celebration gone horribly wrong destroyed many lives, and shattered endless dreams, and it deserves more than being just a statistic of road accidents. The victims are children of parents in one of Namibia’s most remote, and often neglected regions, where in many cases parents, more than anywhere else, equip their children with education because it is the key to a better future.

Most of Namibia’s disadvantaged communities brave floods, droughts and lack of employment, but do not fail to support education as the cornerstone of a future Namibia. The students and parents sacrificed a great deal, and did not have the benefit of free education or education for all. Some of the children would have walked to and from school most of their young lives, sharing dreams of joining one of the tertiary campuses in the Zambezi area to obtain a degree or a certificate. Parents and guardians have relied on the young men and women to continue the quest for knowledge.

The horrific accident drives home the truth that schools, as a place of safety, are usually underestimated and unappreciated. The safety net that education invisibly creates for twelve years by keeping children in class and on the school grounds, as well as occupying them with homework and sport activities is undeniable, although not seen as such by parents and children alike. The fact is that when examinations end, life begins.

The most saddening part is that the days following the accident, maybe because of the remoteness of the area, it nearly became a footnote. Namibians should be stunned at the publicity storm generated by a bus accident in Windhoek, where 12 children escaped serious injury, compared to the Zambezi accident where young people died, and hardly created a publicity breeze.

It again shows the divide between the Namibia of Windhoek, and the Namibia elsewhere off the beaten track. People and regions might have different dynamics, but they face the same perils, and fate does not discriminate. The vast Namibia is not comprised of Windhoek only with its skyscrapers with darkened glass windows and climate control.

The best monument to the victims and the people of Zambezi, specifically, is not to cast around to pass the blame, because the horror of such an event is something any victim, and the Zambezi community, will be burdened with for life. It is again a tragic reminder that good intentions are worth nothing if they are not applied. Now Namibians hear that the specific spot on the Katima Mulilo road is notorious for accidents, and that speed bumps will be built in order to slow down vehicles in future. It is too little, too late.

Therefore, the issue of transporting workers on open lorries, as in the case of the Aussenkehr accident, and the notorious Western Bypass, should also not be allowed to stay a tragedy waiting to happen.

Namibians are again reminded that we are uniquely talented in identifying problems and fault lines in society, but notoriously slow to mend these. What all Namibians share is a country with a small population, where human resources are scarce and should be respected, nurtured, protected and developed for the greater good!

It will never be known, but amongst the victims of a celebration gone horribly wrong there might have been a future president, prime minister, or member of cabinet. There could have been a scientist, an engineer or doctor, or a master mechanic or bricklayer whose handiwork could have made life easier in a remote area, where life is not easy and where education is, in countless cases, the last hope.

Next week, more children will finish their exams. Some might pass with the greatest distinction, and others will fail, but they need to be alive, guided and protected to move forward on the different paths that life will offer.

The tragic deaths of the seven young people from Zambezi must remind Namibians of their duty towards each other and their responsibility for each other.

The deep wounds that the tragedy caused to those dear to the victims, together with all the shattered expectations, can only be overcome by reminding us that when accidents are waiting to happen, they can be prevented, and should be.

The sad thing is that Namibians can only learn from the tragedy that befalls his or her fellow-man. In this sense, the seven schoolchildren leave a lasting inheritance and reminder that Namibians must count their blessings while they can, and address challenges when identified.

A future of action on road safety can only begin with the first day where no lives are lost in accidents that could have been prevented. It can, and should be now.

Its always been...
Finger lickin’
good



Receive a Unique Heritage Tray FREE
with every purchase of a 21 piece bucket
or Variety Bucket.

While stocks last.

