



MOVING ON UP ... Kyokushin Karate Namibia held a prize-giving ceremony recently with many pupils obtaining certificates and belts.

Upgrading on the Belt

• Ndapewoshali Shapwanale

More than a dozen youngsters at the Kyokushin Karate Namibia karate school received certificates and new belt colours when they moved up in their classes.

The grading, which took place recently, saw the students from the karate school move a few steps closer to reaching the highest ranking in karate. Sensei Pascal Nirampeba at the karate school says some of the students have been with the school for six months, others for 12 and some for as long as a year and a half.

"It takes seven years to get to the black belt," Sensei Pascal said.

He went on to explain that while some of the youngsters received their red belts at a previous grading, they advanced to red-plus and red-plus-plus.

"For a student who starts at a very young age, they will go through the different red-plus

belts before they advance to the next belt which is orange and then maroon."

Although karate is a sport that may seem to incite violence, the main aim of it is to instil self-discipline within students learning this craft and of course, self-defence when necessary. Many are learning this sport at a young age so that they obtain their belts earlier and become experienced.

According to Sensei Pascal, the classes normally consist of between 30 and 35 students, but at the moment the biggest class has 25 students. He added that there is no age restriction and that children from all ages can join and even bring along their parents to join the adult class.

The next grading is scheduled to take place in June.

For more information on joining the karate school, contact Sensei Pascal at 0816125324.

The University of Namibia Southern Campus celebrated its first anniversary with a leap in intake from 71 students last year to 438 this year.

Speaking at the coinciding commencement of the academic year on Thursday, campus director Eroid Naomab said this increase was due mainly to the introduction of a diploma course in junior primary education and a degree in nursing.

Hailing the youngest branch to the Unam franchise a dynamic and thriving institution, vice-chancellor Lazarus Hangula expressed regret that growth in student numbers unfortunately did not guarantee immediate growth in infrastructure. "The matching of infrastructure and the human resources to the ever-increasing number of students are some of the real challenges the University of Namibia has been faced with for some years now," he said. The southern campus currently operates from an upgraded structure acquired through the Teachers' Resource Centre.

In addition, Hangula said, Unam bought a private facility for N\$7 million and renovated it to serve as a hostel for 80 students. He announced that the clearing and servicing of land for the permanent campus structure will be completed this year. This exercise will cost N\$10 million. The fully-fledged campus is expected to be completed within four years.

By then, Naomab estimates the campus should host more than 2 000 students. Students hail from all over the country, with just over 30% from the //Karas Region. In addition to the students and academic staff, others who graced the event were outgoing //Karas governor Bernadus Swartbooi – a former law student of the university, and former chairperson of the university council, Willem Konjore. All speakers provided the students with motivational nuggets throughout the event, concluding the festivities with a panel discussion on transformational leadership.

- Nampa

