

FORUMeekly

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Inmate graduates from Prison

ohnny Bradly Davids, an inmate at the Windhoek Correctional Facility, has defied all odds and accomplished what very few people do, regardless of whether they be free or incarcerated.

A father of five, Johnny found his life

turned upside down in 2011, when he was sentenced to twelve years in prison.

Before prison, Johnny had always dreamed of graduating with a qualification from UNAM, but his marks weren't good enough. In prison, he resolved to improve his

marks through NAMCOL. He studied steadily, and in 2015 qualified to apply to UNAM.

"Some of the guards would laugh and say that my studies were just a ruse, a ploy to fool the justice system into believing that I am rehabilitated, but I knew that this was my chance to accomplish my dreams", narrates Johnny.

It was not smooth sailing. Johnny recalls how hard it was to get access to a computer to do assignments and extra reading material.

"My five children, my sister and mother who paid for my education, were my main motivation for studying despite difficult circumstances", recalls a teary eyed Johnny. His mother is a domestic worker living in Windhoek's Khomasdal suburb.

Johnny with his mom and sister.

He studied at night, and during the day read and did assignments. Yesterday, he graduated with a Diploma in Local Government Studies

"I want to work for the City of Windhoek", says Johnny. He completes his reduced sentence in a few week

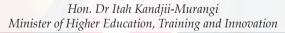
Warrant Thomas Shaanika, a correctional officer at the facility for 14 years, remarked that offenders who study have better prospects after graduation and are less likely to return.

North Eastern Campuses harvest good crops



Johnny Bradley Cooper with Warrant Thomas Shaanika.







Persistent poor rains have not prevented UNAM's North-Eastern campuses from a rich harvest. The Katima Mulilo and Rundu graduation ceremonies held recently tell a story of faith and hope as more than 700 students graduated from the two UNAM campuses.



Katima Mulilo Campus

180 Education degrees

13 Agricultural Science degrees

2 Economic & Management Sciences

13 Humanities & Social Sciences

Rundu Campus

170 Bachelor of Education degrees

37 Nursing degrees

13 Economic & Management Sciences

1 Humanities & Social Sciences