



## Nam Career Service by Welwitschia.org

### How I would change the Namibian education system

Excerpts from Nam Career Service essay competition finalists

The Namibian education needs to evolve to cater for our unique nation. Clearly, no simple, uniform approach can be applied with the expectation that significant improvements of the system will occur.

If I were to change a few things, I would have quite a detailed list. One can agree that teachers are one of the most important resources for a strong and sturdy educational system. We, as students, need teachers that are motivated, passionate and hard working. However, I doubt that it is an easy task to willingly choose to be a teacher in our country. Those passionate about the profession are derailed from their dreams by the low income, those that are courageous enough to follow their dreams and become teachers, are broken down by the massive workload, low compensation and quickly lose motivation.

I feel our education system is failing students who are not the best in academic subjects but excel in practical and vocational areas. We do not have enough schools that place focus on developing the skills of students that are talented in specific practical and vocational work and this negatively limits the amount of young Namibians that are further able to contribute to the development of our country and the world as a whole. There has to be a balance between creative, academic and practical subjects.

We need to be recognized. Not just as a group of adolescents, but as individuals. Students do not all possess the same skills and talents and the educational system need to make sure it accommodates for the unique types of students. Your skills, your talents and what you are best at should play a major role in your decision of which school to attend and there should be a large variety of options available to all students. One should not be forced to make the best of something you're not best at. If one has a talent, one should be supported and nurtured so that one can make use of that talent.

**By Ndilimeke**

Education is considered as a ladder for everybody to climb to prosperity; from the poor to the rich. Consequently, it has been increasingly recognized that the development of a country is only contributed by education. To begin with, a good education system can supply a source of skilled and qualified employees to the working forces, which play critical roles to the economic growth of the country.

The Ministry of Education (MoE)'s Management Information System (EMIS) has revealed that the total number of 816 learners dropped out of school for the year 2013 due to long distances between school and home, with the Kavango Region topping the list, followed by Khomas, Ohangwena and Oshikoto. Over 12 000 full-time students failed the Namibian Senior Secondary certificate (NSSC) Ordinary Level. Some students have dropped out of school due to illnesses; early traditional marriages and others have been forced to look for jobs to support their poor families. Besides those who died along the education process, some of the female students have fallen pregnant and dropped out. Some learners failed because teachers and principals allegedly do not give them sufficient guidance, and the quality of teaching is also unsatisfactory which contributes to failure.

If we wish to reach our goal of Vision 2030, which is to improve the quality of life for all the people of Namibia, then we will need a well-structured education system.

**By Veronika**



Check out the Facebook page of Nam Career Service by Welwitschia's <https://www.facebook.com/NamCareerService> for information on scholarships, internships, essay writing competitions and their workshops on completing CVs and job applications'

Does school prepare children for the real world? "Study hard and get good grades and you will find a high paying job with great benefits". My parents used to say. Getting a good education and making good grades no longer ensure success and nobody seems to have noticed. For the past years, Namibia has been characterized by stagnant economic growth therefore fewer graduates were absorbed into employment. Also, our parents' education instilled in us a dependency. "Study hard and you can become a doctor". Our education system should also focus on producing students that can become owners of corporations and not employees of corporations only. Our system should implant the skills in us to become self-reliant, innovative and entrepreneurial in order for us to create future employment.

The most outstanding question remains why the independent Namibia has not managed to overcome those weaknesses in education. Thus a closer look at the education reform system of Namibia is vital. Therefore the school curricula should be very ambitious and student-centred in the early grades already. It is crucial to involve all the relevant stakeholders during the development of the curricula in order to meet the demand for all. Stakeholders from the public and private sectors should have their input so that students are equipped with the skills industry demands.

Finally, the fruits of education rely on the dedication of students, teachers, educators, and the private sector to education. Factors such as home poverty, weak school functionality, weak teaching practice, inadequate teacher subject knowledge, and need for greater accountability throughout the school system are all causes that place severe constraints on achieving a better results in the Namibian education system.

**By Remegius**

The failure rate especially in Mathematics and Science at Matric level has been sighted as extremely worrying for a developing country such as this one. Leaving the current situation unabated would be catastrophic for the country. Recruiting qualified expatriate teachers especially in the subjects or specialisations where Namibian teachers are lacking would go a long way in solving the problem. These expatriates should be contracted on mid-term contracts, say fit to ten years up until the country has adequate human resources.

Training and recruiting more teachers must be a priority for the Ministry of Education, as the teacher-student ratio must be kept as low as possible. This would learners receiving maximum attention. AS things currently stand, the teacher-student ratio, especially in the rural areas is too high. This leads to many teachers having a huge load and to them not giving the necessary attention required for proper learning to occur.

The high drop-out rate in the country clearly indicates an anomaly in the education system. A host of factors such as family issues, social problems and financial hardships may lead to many school-going children dropping out of school. It is without doubt that schools can do a lot to mitigate this very sad scenario. Schools in my opinion must offer more than just education; this implies daily meals for learners, psychological counseling and guidance, health issue and very vibrant extracurricular activities. This would definitely result in learners either returning to school or not dropping out at all.

**By Chionga**

There was Maya... In the beginning there was Maya. She  
breathed life into a generation that spent most of its time  
choking its lungs so with the tongue and the pen our souls  
became built to win through the vessel of enlightenment that  
was Maya, Maya Angelou. My angel.

She was the inspiration  
that inspired leaders of nations even if the ones she really  
wanted to touch were still getting wasted, wasting time and  
knowledge for the sake of it, no. "because we only live once "  
but Maya is proof that when you live a life revealing the  
truth, you live forever. Timeless poetry that often fell on the  
rocky path yet it still had the power to grow, yes, roses in the  
pavement and in every statement every stanza and even now  
in your silence we continue to grow. What does it take to be a  
goddess? to never die, or to live forever? It's the latter and  
with your letters signed and sealed in our hearts you created,  
empowered and changed mentalities crafted by narrow-minded  
societies. You inspired even us poor excuses for men who did  
not know that a woman is not equal but superior. Her beauty  
is to be worshiped and her presence appreciated. O Maya  
you taught us to love our mothers and our sisters and taught  
us to cherish a woman beyond what she is beneath the covers  
always empowering her to uncover her beauty and show the  
world that she truly is powerful.

You gave us a legacy to pass on to our children and  
generations to come. Men can now tell their sons that if you  
read Maya you will learn to aim higher without getting high or  
wasted. Telling them to never break hearts but always build  
trust because a woman who can trust you entirely can love  
you unconditionally. To work hard and be great doing what  
you love because life is too short for you to spend it being  
unhappy. And to my daughters. To my daughters. I will tell  
them to fly and never shy away from spreading their wings  
but never taking flight before knowing why the caged bird  
sings. Listen to her melody and let it play out as the theme  
song to your life. Spread your wings only as often as you  
spread the love and respect that you have known through  
Maya. Let no man bring you down. Let no man bring you  
down. Let no man bring you down. You will never be called a  
bitch because if he didn't create you then he can't rename  
you. You will lead him, not follow his every step in desperation  
seeking affection because you will love yourself enough to not  
need comfort from another person. You will be stronger than  
the man, because you will teach him what love is, and show  
him that wealth lies where the heart is. And when you have  
your children and you are tucking them into bed. Shut the  
windows, close the curtains, switch off the lights and light a  
candle... start your story with - In the beginning there was  
Maya. Maya Angelou. My angel.