



Honourable

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Dear readers,

As Namibia steps into the opening months of 2026, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose, steady momentum, and confidence in the path we are shaping as a nation. This moment invites reflection beyond the immediacy of daily headlines, an opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved since the establishment of the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC), and to reaffirm the priorities guiding our national development journey.

Education remains at the centre of our collective aspirations, a powerful driver of social mobility, economic participation, and national cohesion. The release of the 2025 NSSCO and NSSCAS examination results in January 2026 marked an important moment of affirmation, celebrating the resilience of our learners and the dedication of teachers, parents, and school communities across the country. At the same time, we continue to sharpen our focus on improving learning outcomes, strengthening the foundational levels at Junior Primary Level, as well as strengthening the credibility of assessments, and ensuring that every child, in every region, has access to quality education that prepares them for life beyond the classroom.

One of the most transformative reforms under MEIYSAC is the introduction of a comprehensive subsidised tertiary and vocational education model. From 2026, Government has taken decisive steps to significantly ease the financial burden on families by expanding subsidies across universities, colleges, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. This intervention ensures that capable and deserving young Namibians are not denied further study because of financial limitations. It represents a deliberate investment in human capital, innovation, and national competitiveness and a firm stride towards a knowledge-driven economy.

The TVET sector, in particular, is undergoing a profound transformation. Through full government subsidies, the strengthening of the National Training Fund, the rollout of Work Integrated Learning, and the expansion of vocational training centres across all 14 regions, Namibia is aligning skills development more closely with labour market

demands. These reforms respond directly to one of our most pressing national challenges, youth unemployment, by equipping young people with practical, industry-relevant skills and opening pathways to entrepreneurship, self-employment, and sustainable livelihoods.

In the media and information sphere, Namibia reached a historic milestone with the inscription of the 1991 Windhoek Declaration into UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2025. This recognition stands as a proud national and continental achievement, affirming Namibia's enduring contribution to global press freedom and democratic values. It is a reminder that principles first articulated in Windhoek, of free, independent, and pluralistic media, continue to shape international discourse in an increasingly complex digital era.

Sport remains a powerful force for unity, national pride, and excellence. Over the past year, Namibia has celebrated remarkable international achievements, including a landmark cricket victory over South Africa, medals at the African Youth Games, and podium finishes at the World Para Championships. The successful hosting of the region 5 Youth Games and ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup further elevated Namibia's standing on the global sporting stage. For the first time, our nation welcomed the world to a Cricket World Cup, a celebration not only of competition, but of youth potential, international friendship, and shared aspiration.

Equally important is the progress being made at home. Events such as the Namibia Annual Sport Awards and the Sport Expo continue to strengthen the sporting ecosystem. At the same time, Government is advancing a coordinated programme of sports infrastructure development focused on upgrading existing facilities and constructing new, fit-for-purpose sports amenities across the country. This includes the completion of the FNB Stadium by Cricket Namibia, advanced preparations to upgrade the Independence Stadium to CAF Category 3 standards, and the rollout of regional and constituency-level sport facilities. These investments are designed to ensure equitable access, nurture talent at grassroots level, and support high-performance sport nationwide.

Arts and culture remain vital expressions of who we are as Namibians and important contributors to the creative

economy. In this context, the Ministry has assumed custodianship of the Namibia Annual Music Awards (NAMAs) to enhance their credibility, sustainability, and developmental impact. By positioning the awards as a national platform under Government stewardship, we seek to promote inclusivity across regions, genres, and generations, inspire emerging creatives, and recognise excellence within the music and entertainment industry. While the inaugural edition is fully supported by Government, future editions will increasingly draw on private sector partnerships to ensure long-term growth and industry ownership.

Across all these sectors, our focus is clear: delivery with impact and sustainability. Challenges such as youth unemployment, skills mismatches, infrastructure backlogs, and the imperative for inclusive growth are being addressed through integrated planning, strengthened governance, and targeted investment. We are enhancing coordination, procurement, and implementation systems so that public resources translate into visible and meaningful benefits for our people.

Since the establishment of MEIYSAC, the message is one of assurance and direction. We are consolidating reforms, accelerating implementation, and aligning our programmes with national development priorities. Our areas of focus, quality education, accessible tertiary and vocational training, youth empowerment, innovation, cultural development, and high-performance sport, are deeply interconnected. Together, they shape a skilled, creative, and competitive Namibia.

To our readers at home and abroad, Namibia remains a stable, welcoming, and forward-looking nation. We value partnerships, tourism, investment, and cultural exchange. Through platforms such as Michelangelo Magazine, we are proud to share our story, one of progress, resilience, and ambition.

As we move through 2026, our commitment is unwavering: to place people at the centre of development, to invest in knowledge and skills, to celebrate excellence, and to build a nation grounded in unity, innovation, and shared prosperity. From Namibia to the world—enjoy this month's Michelangelo Magazine. 🌐