

Statement



31 July 2025

Namibia Shines Again:

Prof. Matengu elected to Global Higher Education Leadership on the ACU Council

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) links more than 500 universities in over 50 Commonwealth countries worldwide.

The University of Namibia is proud to announce that **Prof. Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor of UNAM, has been elected as a Council Member and Trustee of the prestigious Association of Commonwealth Universities.**

Prof. Matengu will represent Constituency III – comprising East, West and Southern Africa – on the ACU Council for a three-year term from 01 August 2025 to 31 July 2028.

The ACU, founded in 1913 and headquartered in London, is the world's oldest international university network, uniting over 500 member universities in more than 50 Commonwealth countries.

The ACU champions excellence in higher education, fostering global collaboration, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and equitable access to learning. Its vision is to advance the cause of higher education for a better world, aligning its initiatives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As an active ACU member, **UNAM benefits from this vibrant network's** scholarships, research partnerships, and academic leadership programmes, driving innovation and strengthening higher education's contribution to society, both in Namibia and beyond.

Reacting to his election, **Prof. Matengu stated:** *"It is a great honour to join the ACU Council and represent African universities on this global platform. I am grateful to my fellow Vice Chancellors for their confidence and support. Collectively, we will promote collaboration, best practices, and mobility across the Commonwealth. I am committed to supporting postgraduate education and research, especially as Africa works to produce the next generation of doctoral graduates needed to realise our continent's vision for the future."*

Joining Prof. Matengu on the newly elected ACU Council are esteemed higher education leaders from across the Commonwealth, including **Professor James A. Miller** FRSE from the University of the West of Scotland in the United Kingdom; **Dr. Alan Shepard** of Western University, Canada; Professor **Dr. A. B. M. Obaidul Islam** from Bangladesh Open University; and **Professor P. M. C. Thilakarathne** from the Open University of Sri Lanka.

This international recognition further underscores UNAM's role in global higher education and affirms the University's ongoing commitment to excellence, leadership and partnership.

Statement



UNAM congratulates Prof. Matengu on this significant appointment and continue to pledge its full support as he champions African and Commonwealth higher education into a new era of cooperation and innovation.

The ACU Council is made up of vice-chancellors from across the Commonwealth, each of whom has been nominated and elected by their peers within the ACU membership network.

#

More about Prof Matengu

Prof. Dr. Kenneth Kamwi Matengu (47) is a highly accomplished leader in higher education, currently serving as **Vice-Chancellor** of the *University of Namibia*, **President** of the *Pan African University (PAU) Council*, and **President** of the *Association of African Universities (AAU) Governing Board* – where he is the youngest person ever elected to this position, on 25 July 2025.

He continues to play a transformative role across these esteemed platforms, advancing collaboration and innovation for African universities.

Prof. Matengu also serves as the **AAU Ambassador** for the *Southern African Higher Education Sector* and **Chairperson** of the *Welding Association of Namibia (WeldNam)*.

His global reputation is underscored by his recognition as an **International Honorary Fellow** of *Cardiff University*, Wales, and his service as a **UNESCO Intergovernmental Council Member** for the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Programme. He also **serves on the boards** of the *Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD)* and the *Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)*.

/end/

Mr Simon Namesho (Chart.PR), Manager: Public Relations

Corporate Engagement & International Relations Directorate

Tel: +264 61 206 3091 / 3094 | Mobile: +264 81 218 3723 | Email: snamesho@unam.na