

## THROWBACK FRIDAY: A Whirlwind of Nostalgia

By Rose-dean Thirion and Ripuruaije Tjiendero

The SRC hosted a throwback event to celebrate high school pride and cherished memories. The Triumphant SRC hosted a "Back To School" event on Friday, August 1 where students paid homage to their former high schools. The event themed: "My high school is cooler than yours" was dedicated to students representing and paying homage to their former high schools. Students proudly wore their old school uniforms, sparking a wave of nostalgia and shared memories. The sight of different colours and badges created a vibrant atmosphere similar to that of classic school assembly. For many, the uniform brought back vivid memories. "It felt like a Monday morning rush hour all over again" said one student who wished to remain anonymous.

Waking up to cereals and milk and remembering the Iconic black leather shoes from Pep, the event featured a wide variety of activities from packets of chips to sweet treats like lollipops and koeksusters. Fun activities such as dancing and singing to loud music kept the students engaged.







SRC President Morres Samuel said "The event provided an opportunity for students to reflect on how things used to be in terms of waking up to ironed uniforms verses now being able to wear whatever they wanted and to remind them that the dreams and goals that they had set in high school are still valid and that currently they are chasing those dreams. Ultimately, the day was not a competition about which high school uniform was the best or which school was coolest. It was an impactful celebration that gave students a new perspective on what it truly means to be a varsity student". "It was about realizing that our history is what makes us unique". He concluded.

## From Village Runways to the National Stage: The Inspiring Journey of Hope Rukero

By Baldina ZM Uushona

When you meet Hope Rukero, there's a quiet confidence and warmth about her the kind of presence that makes it easy to forget just how far she's come. A top 10 finalist in Miss Namibia 2025 and the reigning Miss Triumphant College 2022, Hope is not your typical pageant queen. Behind the crown is a young woman grounded in grit, passion, and purpose.

"I'm just an ordinary girl who had a dream," she says with a smile. "I always wanted to be a runway model. I tried out for MTC Fashion Week, but didn't make it. So, I gave pageantry a shot, starting from the village stage and here I am."

Hope's journey into pageantry wasn't straightforward. Studying Electrical Engineering full-time, she juggled her academic commitments with her passion for the stage. Her first major break came when she won Miss Triumphant College in 2022.

"It was unexpected," she recalls. "There was real competition, and I had barely started preparing. With the help of an amazing coach, I pushed through."

That experience became a foundation to Miss Namibia, where she made it into the top 10 finalists in 2025. "Being in the top 10 was incredible," Hope says, her eyes lighting up. "We got to travel to the north a place I'd never been before and I loved every part of it. I had to learn how to do my own makeup, style my hair, and dress myself. It really taught me how to be me, because authenticity is what they're looking for."



Pageantry, she admits, isn't all glamour and photoshoots. "One night after dinner, we were just told to get ready in a semi-formal outfit for an interview out of nowhere,", "You had to freestyle and just stay calm."

Emotionally and financially, the journey was demanding but Hope had a solid plan and a strong support system. "I knew only one person could win, and I made peace with that," she says. "I prepared for both outcomes. That mind-set really helped me be at peace with how things turned out."

Her advocacy raising awareness on diabetes and pancreatic cancer is deeply personal. "It's something I've experienced closely. People, especially in rural areas, need to know how to prevent these illnesses and understand what they really mean."

Hope also shared her personal definition of beauty "It's not just about how you look," she says. "It's about having a golden heart, being someone who lifts others, someone who carries herself with respect whether on campus or with friends."

Surprisingly, the pageant queen is also a proud farm girl who loves horse riding and has a hidden passion for singing. "People are always shocked when they find out I'm studying electrical engineering," she laughs. "They expect me to be doing IT or something more glam."

If she wasn't doing pageants? "I'd probably be in the choir. I used to sing when was Miss Triumphant and I loved it." In case you were wondering, she's team heels, prefers the natural look, and chooses catwalks over couch time any day.

As our conversation wrapped up, it became clear that Hope's story is more than just about crowns or titles. It's about persistence, personal growth, and the power of believing in yourself.

With her charm, determination, and unwavering authenticity, Hope Rukero is proving that dreams, no matter how distant they may seem are always worth chasing.

## The Price of Love: When Relationships Become Transactions

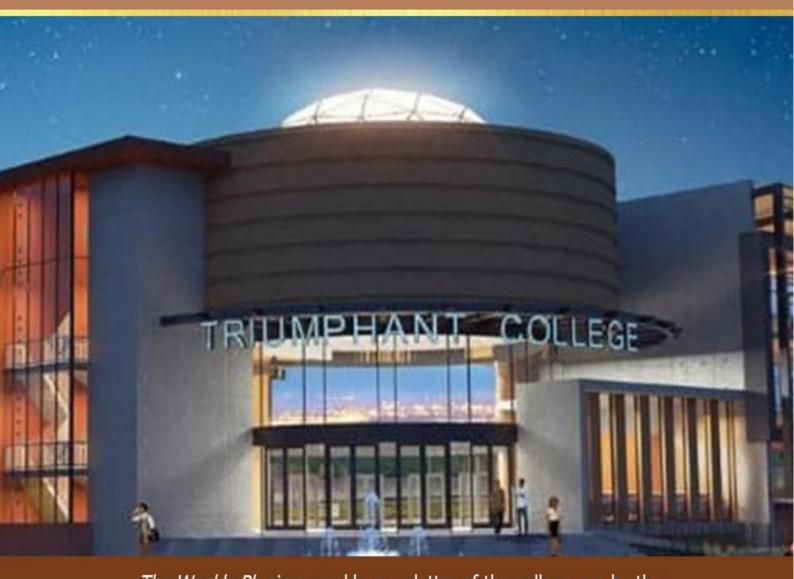
By Elizabeth Wendeinge

We live in a world where love is slowly being replaced by likes, loyalty, luxury, intentions and by influence. Relationships have become less about connection and more about competition. Who has the latest phone? Who went to Dubai? Who got picked up in a black Mercedes Benz? These questions echo louder than "Are you happy?"

Many young girls today are dating not for love, but for lifestyle. Some proudly call it "soft life," others say they're just being "taken care of." But beneath the glam and the filters lies a painful truth: we are normalizing transactional relationships that teach girls to measure their value by what they can receive, not by who they are. It's even worse when it involves married men. Often, the story starts with a phone or money for rent, but it ends in pain sometimes heartbreak, sometimes violence. When love becomes something you can buy, loyalty no longer matters.

Women fight each other for men who belong to someone else. Men use their power and position to control and manipulate. And society sits back and watches like it's just anything trending. We are raising a generation that believes material things equal love.





The Weekly Plus is a weekly newsletter of the college run by the JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES DEPARTMENT

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