



Photos: Henry van Rooi

HONOURED ... Martha Namundjebo-Tilahun (beneath) and Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (above) were awarded doctorate degrees (honoris causa) in business ad-

ministration by the University of Namibia on Friday. They collected the awards from former President and Unam chancellor Hifikepunye Pohamba.

Unam honours PM, businesswoman

• NDAMA NAKASHOLE

THE University of Namibia awarded Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and businesswoman Martha Namundjebo-Tilahun honorary doctorate degrees (honoris causa) in Windhoek on Friday.

An honorary doctorate degree is an academic doctorate degree for which a university (or other degree-awarding institution) has waived the usual requirements, such as matriculation, residence, study and the passing of examinations.

Honoris causa is a Latin phrase meaning 'for the sake of the honour'.

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila was awarded a doctorate in public finance (honoris causa) for her successful contribution to Namibia's finance sector.

Namundjebo-Tilahun, who was awarded a doctorate in business administration (honoris causa), has excelled in the business sector, according to Unam's vice-chancellor Lazarus Hangula.

In his address, Unam chancellor Hifikepunye Pohamba referred to the two as "women of substance".

"These two women have achieved high levels of success in the public finance sector and the business sector," Pohamba said, adding that the conferment of the degrees will open the doors for more Namibian women.

He applauded Unam for empowering Namibian women through education,

specifically the institution's selection committee.

"Saara was the finance minister when I was in office and she did fantastically well. Martha came from humble beginnings to run a business," he said.

Pohamba also said he was very proud when President Hage Geingob appointed Kuugongelwa-Amadhila the country's first-ever female prime minister.

Accepting her honorary doctorate, Kuugongelwa-Amadhila acknowledged with appreciation Unam's successful collaboration with academic and government institutions across the different parts of the world.

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said this has enabled Unam, apart from gaining support, to tap into key research and innovation centres around the world.

Namundjebo-Tilahun said the empowerment of the girl child to be able to compete on equal footing with her male counterparts in education, business and leadership roles becomes very crucial in giving women an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the development of their communities.

"In my business career, I have worked with many business colleagues who have made enormous contributions to my personal development and growth of our business," she said.

"Someone is sitting in a shade today because someone planted a tree long time ago," she quoted prominent business personality Warren Buffet.

