

Museums Association of Namibia Chairperson's Annual Report

1st April, 2006 - 31st March, 2007



*Some of the participants at the AGM and Conference of the
Museums Association of Namibia, May, 2006.*

Mr Werner Thaniseb
Chairperson
Museums Association of Namibia
May, 2007.

Introduction

This financial year has seen a massive development in the history of the Museums Association of Namibia with the opening of MAN's own office and resource centre by Dr H. Diaz, Director of Heritage and Culture, on 5th August, 2006. Whilst MAN still operates the office with only two part-time staff members - an Office Administrator and the Project Planning and Training Officer – the new office has made enabled MAN to be more accessible to its members, to provide better information and support to museum projects and hold meetings with other stakeholders in a professional environment. MAN is very grateful to the Ministry for the financial support which it has received and which has enabled MAN to operate far more effectively during 2006-2007.



Dr H. Diaz, Director of Heritage and Culture at the Ministry of National Service, Sports, Youth and Culture officially opens the new office and resource centre of the Museums Association of Namibia.

A further significant development in the ability of MAN to communicate with its members and provide services has been the establishment of an email address for the organization (museums@iway.com). In part due to the improved accessibility of the organization the Museums Association of Namibia has experienced a tremendous growth in the number of requests it receives to assist organizations and individuals with museum

development. Indeed, at present, the demand exceeds the human and financial resources available to the organization and MAN has to be selective in terms of the interventions that it is able to make.

One very encouraging sign during the year has been the number of regional initiatives that have been emerging, however there is a tremendous need for professional training and planning to support new projects to ensure that they are effectively organized and for the provision of regional funding to assist museum development. MAN's new initiative, to hold regional workshops to encourage regional museum development, has revealed that there is a considerable lack of clarity about funds that were apparently allocated several years ago for the development of regional museums. MAN, therefore, is concerned about the apparent slowness of the Ministry to make effective use of funds allocated for the development of regional museums and lack of clarity about the way in which the money has been allocated (for example the museum in Katima Mulilo was opened by the Minister in 2003, but as yet has not opened to the public and has no staff, no exhibition plan and no significant collection). MAN would suggest that, the Ministry might be well advised to use these funds to support existing initiatives which already have local actors enthusiastically involved, rather than seeking to create regional museums from a Windhoek-based perspective. MAN remains eager to discuss this matter with the relevant authorities at the Ministry.

The provision of a professional high-quality colour printer and a binding machine have enabled MAN to produce its own reports and there has been a tremendous demand for copies of our reports over the last twelve months. It is also noticeable that the bi-annual newsletter of the Museums Association of Namibia, *Museum Matters*, continues to improve in quality with each edition. The newsletter is distributed not only to members, but also to international heritage institutions and has, therefore, become an important tool for showcasing developments in the heritage sector in Namibia. Apart from the improved equipment available to the organization our work has also been made easier by the strengthening of our partnerships with other stakeholders. Staff members of the National Museum of Namibia participated actively in the presentations and discussions at the AGM, the National Archives of Namibia assisted greatly with the curation of our *Namibia's Night Skies* exhibition, the National Art Gallery of Namibia and the John Muafangejo Arts Centre provided venues for our exhibitions and the National Heritage Council continued to be our main partner in the Heritage Hunt campaign. The Museums Association of Namibia hopes and believes that the continuing growth of these active partnerships will play a central role in the continuing successful expansion and development of the heritage sector.

Regional Museum Planning Workshops: Ohangwena and Kunene.

The Museums Association of Namibia has supported the development of existing museums in Namibia for a number of years, but the Executive Committee have decided that, given the unequal distribution of museums in Namibia, MAN should become more proactive in encouraging museum development in regions which have few or no effectively functioning museums. In the light of this decision it was agreed that MAN

would conduct one workshop each year in a region to try to stimulate regional museum development. Regional Councillors would be invited to attend the workshop which would involve presentations about any projects or programmes of relevance to the region and an attempt to identify areas of greatest potential for museum development in each region. As it happened the first two workshop conducted both took place within the period covered by this annual report.

The Ohangwena Regional Museum Planning Workshop took place on 7th May, 2006 at Oshikango whilst the Kunene Regional Museum Planning Workshop took place at Khorixas on 19th March, 2007. The recommendations for Ohangwena included the development of a museum linked to the mass graves at Eenhana and a museum at the royal palace at Omhedi. A follow-up meeting about Omhedi took place, but the regional cultural officer was awaiting clarification regarding the use of the funds allocated for the development of a regional museum in Ohangwena. The recommendations from the workshop for Kunene Region included the development of one or more museums at the entrance(s) to the Skeleton Coast Park, which it was felt was underdeveloped as an attraction in the region. Full reports on the two workshops containing a summary of all the presentations made and of the recommendations produced by the workshop were completed and submitted to the Regional Councils and the Ministry.



Some of the participants at the Ohangwena Regional Museum Planning Workshop.

MuseumDepot Cataloguing System

The Museums Association of Namibia has been tasked to assist the Ministry with the documentation of national heritage objects held in museums throughout Namibia. A telephonic survey conducted by MAN revealed that the cataloguing of objects in Namibian museums has not been carried out in a systematic way. Each museum had its own system of cataloguing with no national standards in place, indeed some of the regional museums did not have a complete catalogue listing the objects in their collection. The situation is a major concern as not only is a catalogue an important prerequisite for a professional museum, but adequate documentation is also essential if disputes about ownership arise or to facilitate the recovery of any items stolen from a museum.



Participants at the Polytechnic of Namibia at the first of two computerized cataloguing training courses organized by MAN during the financial year.

It was for this reason that MAN developed links via the African Council of Museums (AFRICOM) with MuseumDepot.com - an organization providing free cataloguing software to African museums and conforming with AFRICOM standards. MAN arranged for two training sessions to take place and obtained the right to distribute and install cataloguing software to Namibian museums free of charge. The first training session was provided by Mr Cees List and Mr Floris Guntenaar and took place on 23rd-24th May, 2006 at the Computer Centre at the Centre for Entrepreneurship at the Polytechnic of Namibia. The participants were: Ms Anneke Blizard (Walvis Bay Museum), Ms. Betty Hango-Rummukainen (History Department, National Museum of Namibia), Sergt. Victor Iita (Military Museum, Okahandja), Ms Magdalena Kaanante (Nakambale Museum), Mr Kaembo Kasiringua (Tsumeb Cultural Village), Ms. Rezell Louw (Keetmanshoop Museum), Ms Helena Nengola (National Heritage Council) Ms. Chisengo Nikanor (Anthropology Department, National Museum of Namibia), Mr Friso Piebrock (Swakopmund Museum), Ms Heleen Rossouw (Grootfontein Museum), Mr Konrad Schüllenback (TransNamib Museum), Ms. Napandulwe Shiweda (Museums Association of Namibia) and Dr Jeremy Silvester (Museums Association of Namibia).

The second training session took place on 20th-21st March, 2007 and involved Mr Nico Nikanor and Ms Tania Toivo (National Art Gallery of Namibia), Mr Alfons Thaniseb (Museums Association of Namibia) and Ms Helena Showa and Ms Revekka Haufiku (MAN Interns). MAN also facilitated a meeting between Mr Guntenaar and the National Heritage Council to discuss their possible adoption of the system which is being developed so that heritage objects, heritage places and intangible heritage might all be linked on one single Cultural Database. The aim of training two young interns was that they might be sent out to regional museums to assist with cataloguing and to encourage regional museums to adopt the system. Museums require a computer with a cd-rom drive in order to download and use the MuseumD cataloguing system and MAN has therefore also prioritized the provision of such equipment to established museums under its regional museum development grant programme.

MAN AGM 2007 (Walvis Bay) and SCAM-X (2007).

The Executive Committee of the Museums Association of Namibia decided to transform MAN's AGM and a new approach was adopted for the 2007 AGM in Walvis Bay. It was felt that the annual meeting was a unique gathering of people involved in the heritage sector in Namibia and that, rather than simply hearing annual reports from individual museums, it would be better to develop a 'Conference' element to the programme. Presentations would be solicited which would provide information about new developments in museumology and case studies of successful Namibian initiatives. The conference would also provide an opportunity for other stakeholders in the heritage sector to showcase their projects and programmes in order to encourage further co-operation and collaboration in the heritage sector. A summary of the presentations and discussions that took place at the Conference and AGM is provided here (a more detailed report on some of the more important presentations was provided in a special edition of MAN's newsletter, *Museum Matters*, produced after the AGM). The Museums Association of Namibia was particularly honoured to have Mr Maurice Davies, the Deputy Director of the Museums Association (UK) as our key note speaker. The cost of his flight to attend the meeting was generously sponsored by the British Council. MAN is grateful to the Municipality of Walvis Bay which sponsored the venue and the closing gala supper for the AGM.

Participants for the AGM and Conference arrived on Thursday, 25th May. The AGM and Conference took place in parallel with the School Clubs and Museums Exhibition Competition with teams from seven different schools travelling to Walvis Bay and erecting their exhibitions in the hall of the Municipality of Walvis Bay. Judging was conducted by a judging team consisting of Ms. Betty Hango-Rummukainen (National Museum of Namibia), Mr Goodman Gwasira (History Department, University of Namibia), Mr Joseph Madisia (National Art Gallery of Namibia) and Mrs Klause from the local art gallery in Walvis Bay. The winners of the 2007 SCAM-X competition were Dr Lemmer Secondary School from Rehoboth.



Mr Gerhardt Gurirab, Mr Maurice Davies (Museums Association, UK), Dr Jeremy Silvester (MAN Project Planning and Training Officer), Ms Fransiska Kangombe (MAN Administrator) and Mr André Strauss (Deputy Director, Heritage and Culture) pictured in front of part of the !Nanseb Exhibition that was on display at the MAN AGM in Walvis Bay.

Friday, 26 May: Museums and Collections

- 09:00 Welcome and Opening Address
(Hon. Samuel Nuuyoma, Governor of Erongo Region)
- 09:10 Chairpersons Address
Mr Werner Thaniseb (Chairperson, Museums Association of Namibia)
- 09:30 Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Maurice Davies**
(Deputy Director: UK Museums Association)
"Museums and Collections: An Audit"
- 10:00 Discussion
- 10:15 Announcements
- 10:50 TEA
- 11:05 *Panel I:* **Reflections on Namibia's Museum Collections**
Chair: Goodman Gwasira (University of Namibia).

Mr. Eugene Marais (National Museum of Namibia): "The State of our collections: A National Audit"

Ms. Fransiska Kangombe (Intern. Biota Southern Africa Project, National Botanical Research Institute): “An Overview of Namibia’s Museums”

Dr. Jeremy Silvester: (Museums Association of Namibia)
“Reflections on the Töttemeyer Report: A review of recommendations made and action taken.”

11.50 *Panel 2: Preserving Our Collections*
Chair: Memory Biwa (National Archives of Namibia)

Mr. Eckhard Mueller (Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology)
“Martin Luther’s Glass Tomb”

Ms Hertha Lukileni (National Archives of Namibia)
“Preserving our views of the past: A report on a regional photograph conservation workshop”

Mr Tapani Kuivanen (National Museum of Namibia): “Skins and Glass Eyes: A Beginner’s Guide to Taxidermy”

Ms Napandulwe Shiweda (Museums Association of Namibia): “The Powell-Cotton Collection: Traditional Knowledge Systems and Conservation”

Ms. Betty Hango- Rummukainen(National Museum of Namibia):
“Disaster Management for Namibian Museums”

12:40 Discussion

13:00 LUNCH

14:00 ***Group Discussion 1: Are Namibian Museums Relevant?***

Participants were divided into three discussion groups to discuss the statements below:

- i) Three dimensional objects have been overlooked in creating museum exhibitions.
- ii) Namibian museums are not engaged in contemporary collecting.
- iii) Existing museum collections are not relevant to the majority of Namibians.

14:30 Feedback and discussion

14:45 *Panel 3:* **Introduction to New Initiatives**
Chair: Ms. Hertha Likuleni (National Archives of Namibia)

- Lt-Col. Abisai: The National Military Museum
- Chief-Lt Mogotsi: The National Police Museum
- Patrick Rickert/Tarina Bird: Eduventure – National Museum of Namibia

15:30 TEA

15.45 *Panel 4:* **Engaging Change: New Audiences**
Chair: Mr. Goodman Gwasira (University of Namibia)

Mr. Bennett Kangumu (University of Cape Town) “Engaging Change: The ‘redefinition’ of museums and their practices in post-colonial Namibia”

Ms. Chisengo Nikanor (National Museum of Namibia): “Reaching new audiences- Accessibility and children’s programs”

Ms. Lovisa Nampala (Uukelo Combined School/Heritage Hunt Regional Facilitator: Ohangwena): “Museum Opportunities- A Heritage Hunter’s Report on Ohangwena Region”

Mr. Andre Strauss (Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Directorate: Culture and Heritage Programs)
“Linking our Tangible and Intangible Heritage”

16:45 Discussion

17:30 Announcements

Saturday, 27 May: Museums, Communities and Curators

Entries for the **Schools and Museums Exhibition Project (SCAM)** were on display in a side area to the conference hall throughout the day. Judging will take place during lunch time.

The judges are: Mr. Joe Madisia (National Art Gallery of Namibia)
 Mr. Goodman Gwasira (History Dept. University of Namibia)
 Mrs Klause (The Gallery, Walvis Bay)

07:00 Lagoon Walk

- 08:00 MAN Information Desk opens.
- 08.00 Panel 5: **Partners in Progress**
 Chair: Ms. Chisengo Nikanor (National Museum of Namibia)
- The Future of documentation – Mr Floris Guntenaar (Museum Depot)
- The Association of Local Authorities of Namibia (ALAN) – Rosina //Hoabes (President of ALAN).
- Inventorization of Heritage Sites/Objects – Mr. David Hart, Manager-South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA – The South African Experience)
- The National Heritage Hunt – Jeremy Silvester (Museums Association of Namibia).
- 09:00 Discussion
- 09.10 **Group Discussion 2: What standards do we want for Namibian museums?** - Werner Thaniseb (Museums Association of Namibia).
 Chair: Ms. Analeen Eins
- Participants will be given a proposal by MAN for the establishment of a system of certificates for Namibian museums. The proposal is that museums can obtain Copper, Gold or Diamond Certificates as they achieve certain goals. The aim of the scheme is to encourage regional museum development.
- 9:40 Groups discuss Professional Standards and Transformation Indicators
- 10:00 Feedback and discussion
- 10:25 Closing Remarks: Dr. Maurice Davies (UK Museums Association)
- 10:30 Tea break
- 11:00 **16th AGM**

The Agenda of the meeting:

- i) Opening and welcome
- ii) Apologies
- iii) Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting
- iv) Chairpersons Report
- v) Report and approval of the audited financial statements for the year ending 2005-2006

- vi) Submission of any resolutions to the Association
 - vii) General
 - viii) General elections (Executive Committee)
 - ix) Closing
- 13:00 LUNCH
- 14.00 **Walvis Bay Tour:** A short tour of the Walvis Bay Museum was followed by a visit to other heritage sites in and around Walvis Bay..
- 19:00 **Gala Dinner and award presentation hosted by the Mayor of Walvis Bay, Mr. D. Klazen.**



A section of the winning entry from Dr Lemmer High School from Rehoboth in the School Clubs and Museums Exhibition Competition for 2006.

Museum Planning Meetings.

The Museums Association of Namibia provides support in the form of planning meetings or workshops for existing museums that are members of the Association and will also investigate new museum project proposals to evaluate their viability and give advice.

On 21st August, 2006 meetings took place with Town Councillors from Tsumeb to discuss the support given by the Municipality to the two museums in the town – Tsumeb Museum and Tsumeb Cultural Village. A meeting also took place at Tsumeb Museum to discuss the needs of the museum and particularly MAN’s concerns about the need to broaden the membership of the museum’s advisory board, involve young people in the activities of the museum, produce digital copies of the museum’s valuable photograph collection and to create a modern catalogue of the museum’s extensive collection. A

report containing the recommendations was submitted to the museum. A meeting was also held with the staff of the Tsumeb Cultural Village to evaluate the progress that had been made towards achieving the objectives that had been set in the previous action plan drawn up by MAN.

The City of Windhoek requested MAN to facilitate a two day workshop on 7th-8th February, 2007 to draw up an Action Plan for the establishment of a new museum in Windhoek that would showcase the history of the City and the services provided to residents.

The Municipality of Lüderitz invited MAN to discuss the potential for heritage development in the town as part of its strategy to promote tourism and these meetings were combined with the planning of the 2007 AGM. The meetings took place during the period 15th – 20th March, 2007. An evaluation report was submitted to the Municipality and it was agreed that MAN would facilitate a workshop involving all the relevant stakeholders to draw up an Action Plan for the Municipality which was interested in developing a number of heritage sites and promoting the town as a national heritage centre.

Heritage Hunt Campaign.

It was unfortunate that there was a long hiatus in the Heritage Hunt campaign during 2006 as MAN waited for a decision from UNESCO regarding further funding for the project. It was for this reason that MAN delayed the launch of the planned school competition until it received confirmation in January, 2007 that UNESCO would provide further funding and would, therefore, continue to be a project partner.

One of the aims of the school competition was to find a way to take the Heritage Hunt to every region in the country as there were concerns that the initial funding had only allowed the project to visit Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto Regions. The competition was launched at the Board Room of the National Heritage Council by the Hon. John Mutorwa, Ministry of National Service, Youth, Sports and Culture on 28th February, 2007. Invitations to participate in the competition were posted out in a mailing targeted at 511 schools which provided classes for Grades 8 upwards (the awards ceremony and results of the competition fall within the period of next year's annual report).



Mr Karl Aribeb (Director of the National Heritage Council), Dr Jeremy Silvester (Project Planning & Training Officer, MAN) and Hon. John Mutorwa (Minister of National Service, Sports, Youth and Culture) seen at the launch of the Heritage Hunt school competition.

African Council of Museums Conference (AFRICOM).

The African Council of Museums was launched at a Constituent Assembly in Lusaka, Zambia in 1999. One of its major aims is to strengthen collaboration and co-operation between museums and museum professionals in Africa and to support the development of museums in Africa. The first AFRICOM Conference took place in Nairobi, Kenya in 2003. The Conference in Cape Town is the second ever AFRICOM Conference.

The fact that the Conference was taking place in Cape Town provided the Museums Association of Namibia with a unique opportunity to assist MAN members who were also AFRICOM members to attend the Conference and AGM and network with colleagues from all over the continent. The Executive Committee decided that instead of sending only one or two delegates a delegation of ten would be supported, but with low budget transport and accommodation. It was therefore decided that the delegation would travel by bus and stay in a hostel rather than a hotel.

The delegates consisted of Ms Memory Biwa (National Archives of Namibia), Ms Rebecca Kalola (Tsumeb Cultural Village), Ms Magdalena Kanaante (Nakambale Museum), Mr Joe Madisia (National Art Gallery of Namibia), Ms Lovisa Ndaoya (Heritage Hunt Co-ordinator: Oshikoto Region), Ms Napandulwe Shigweda (Museums Association of Namibia/City of Windhoek Museum), Dr Jeremy Silvester (Museums Association of Namibia) and Mr Werner Thaniseb (National Theatre of Namibia/Chairperson, Museums Association of Namibia). Ms Hertha Lukileni (National

Archives of Namibia) and Ms Thelma van Rhyn (Omaruru Museum) were not able to attend the Conference due to work commitments. Dr Silvester was subsequently awarded a bursary by AFRICOM to attend the Conference.



Ms Rebeka Kalola of Tsumeb Cultural Village on the boat to Robben Island Museum - one of the activities that took place during the AFRICOM Conference.

The theme of the Conference was 'Intangible Heritage' – exploring the ways in which performances, research and audio-visual recordings might be used to introduce intangible heritage to museums. The Conference attracted 240 delegates from 56 different countries and all but four of the countries in Africa and the surrounding island states were represented. The Conference was addressed by the President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), Ms Alissandra Cummins from Barbados, and the President of the International Council for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments (ICCROM), Dr Mounir Bouchenaka from Algeria. A detailed report on the Conference, including recommendations, was completed and submitted to the Ministry by the delegation following their return to Namibia.

Regional Museum Development Grants.

The Museums Association of Namibia provided five grants to encourage regional museum development. As usual, the Museums Association of Namibia only received two-thirds of its grant-in-aid towards the end of the financial year and this meant that there it is not always possible to allocate all the grant money before the end of the financial year and this is particularly the case as M.A.N. seeks to support new museum development initiatives as we carefully scrutinize the viability, sustainability and

management and financial structures of a new project before providing a grant. During the financial year we considered applications for grants from several new museum projects, but it was agreed that a number of conditions should be fulfilled before they might qualify for regional museum development grant funding. It was also agreed that the Executive Committee should develop a clear process for the assessment of new museum projects in order to try and avoid the payment of grants to any project that might not be realised.

The grants awarded during the current financial year were as follows: 1) A grant to the Marine Archaeology Museum to purchase storage racks to enable them to store their collection in safe conditions, a contribution to the construction of a small exhibition building for the museum and a grant to support restoration work on a 105 year old boat; 2) The first part of a grant to the TransNamib Museum for the purchase of a digital camera as part of a project to enable the digital cataloguing of the museum's collection; 3) A grant to Walvis Bay Museum to cover restoration work on a historical mule cart which will be carried out at the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology in Arandis; 4) A grant to the National Archives of Namibia to enable them to purchase specialised scanning equipment to enable them to offer a service to regional museums to digitalise glass negatives and historical photographs as a conservation measure and 5) a final grant was used by the Museums Association of Namibia to obtain equipment that would assist it to be self-servicing in the production of reports and mobile exhibitions to regional museums.

Lobbying.

One of the roles of the Museums Association of Namibia is to represent the interests of its members and to lobby for the development of museums and improvement of conditions in the museum sector and a number of significant meetings were held during the course of the year (see calendar at the end of the report for details). The Museums Association of Namibia completed a survey of the type of support provided by the different municipalities to museums throughout the country and has used this as the basis for a model set of guidelines for municipalities containing recommendations about the extent of support that each municipality should provide. The aim is to create a national standard that each municipality should attempt to comply with or excel.

A meeting was held with officials from the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing where the MAN guidelines were presented and explained and a request was made that the Ministry might adopt these guidelines and recommend them to local authorities. An additional concern that was raised at the meeting was the role of Regional Councils in museum development and the Ministry was encouraged to consider making a budgetary allocation for regional museum development to Regional Councils.

Meetings were also held to encourage the development of new museum projects. Two meetings were held with officials from the City of Windhoek to discuss proposals for the development of a City Museum and, following these meetings, it was agreed that MAN should facilitate a planning workshop. Two meetings also took place with the

Commissioner of Prisons at the Ministry of Safety and Security regarding his vision of creating a National Prisons Museum. MAN was also requested to facilitate a planning workshop for the Department of Prisons, but, unfortunately, this was subsequently cancelled as the officials who were required to attend the workshop had to travel outside of Namibia. MAN was encouraged by the interest and personal commitment of the Commissioner of Prisons to the development of a museum and hopes that the initiative will progress during the next financial year.

Exhibitions.

The Museums Association of Namibia is committed to assisting museums in Namibia to be dynamic spaces and for this reason is supporting the development of a number of mobile exhibitions that can be borrowed by regional museums as temporary displays. During this financial year two exhibitions were created.

'Images at War: Posters in Namibia's Liberation Struggle' was an exhibition produced in partnership with the History Department of the University of Basle. The exhibition was facilitated by the Museums Association of Namibia, but curated by a working group consisting of students from the John Muafangeyo Art Centre and UNAM History Department and colleagues from the National Archives of Namibia, History Department at UNAM and John Muafangeyo Arts Centre. The exhibition marked the second phase of a collaborative project with the University of Basle in Switzerland. The first phase saw two Namibian students and two other members of the working group travel to Switzerland to work with Swiss students on the creation of a poster exhibition about the Namibian liberation struggle – working with the poster collection at the Basle Afrika Bibliographien. The Namibian students gained valuable experience in exhibition design and on their return became two of the three student team leaders who selected the material for the Namibian version of the exhibition.

The exhibition used a poster entitled 'The Namibian Revolution' that was commissioned by Hon. Hidino Hishongwa in 1976 in Senegal and designed by the Italian artist Eduardo di Moro. The poster uses the slogan 'Solidarity, Freedom and Justice' and these words formed the basis for the three sections of the exhibition. Three working groups selected posters that they felt had been used to try and visually convey the ideas of solidarity, freedom and justice through use of symbols such as the breaking of chains, the map of Namibia or the Christian cross. The exhibition also shows the way in which both sides tried to use art to persuade viewers to support them.



Hon. Hidino Hishongwa talks about a poster that he commissioned during the official opening of the Images at War exhibition at JMAC in Katutura.

The exhibition was mounted at the John Muafangeyo Arts Centre in Katutura from 26th August to 5th September, 2007 and was opened by Hon. Hidino Hishongwa. The team also created a large banner featuring some of the graffiti which was a feature of the liberation struggle inside Namibia and used this to help divide the gallery. In addition the team built a wall of wood and hession which created a pathway through the exhibition so that visitors would follow the narrative plan of the exhibition. The wall was used to show an additional exhibition of photographs featuring the role of art in the liberation struggle and which were printed on A4 photograph paper and laminated at the offices of the Museums Association of Namibia. The exhibition received substantial coverage in the printed media and was advertised on the NBC radio services, but was not, unfortunately covered by NBC TV. The exhibition concluded with a workshop on the wider topic of *Art and Culture in the Liberation Struggle* at which the students explained the reasons behind their selection of posters and heard contributions from speakers such as Jackson Kaerua and Paul Helmuth.

The second mobile exhibition created by the Museums Association of Namibia was the Namibia Night Skies exhibition which was officially opened by the Hon Erki Nghimtina,, Minister of Mines and Energy on Monday, 4th September, 2006. The Education Officer at the NAGN organised visits by many local schools to the exhibition and it was so popular that the exhibition run was extended for an additional week. The exhibition was shown at the National Art Gallery of Namibia in Windhoek. The exhibition was curated by a working group that consisted of Ms Memory Biwa, (National Archives of Namibia), Ms Sonja Itting-Enke (C. Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory), Ms Hertha Lukileni (National Archives of Namibia), Ms Merret Schnarr (MAN Intern), Mr S. Shali (MAN Intern), Ms Rauha Shimwaafeni (MAN Intern), Dr Jeremy Silvester (MAN), Dr Riaan Steenkamp (Department of Physics, University of Namibia) and Helmut zur Strassen (Namibian Association of Tourism and Hospitality).



The large title banner for the Namibia's Night Sky mobile exhibition shows a nebula.

The exhibition featured a combination of photographs provided by Namibian observatories and images downloaded (free of charge) from NASA's web site – taken by the Hubble Space Station, a telescope that orbits the earth. In addition the South African Astronomical Observatory provided a set of posters featuring names and stories that showed an African perspective on astronomy. During the exhibition these posters were supplemented with a noticeboard that allowed visitors to add information about the names given to stars in local Namibian languages and stories that are associated with the stars and planets. Ms Helen Vale from the English Department at the University of Namibia also created a quiz for learners who were visiting the exhibition. A total of 98 learners entered the competition which involved answering ten questions (with the answers all being available in the text of the exhibition). Six learners managed to get all the answers correct and a winner (from Eros Girls School) was selected at random and received a framed poster about African astronomy.

The *!Nanseb: The Life and Times of Hendrik Witbooi and his Community* Exhibition which had previously been created by the Museums Association of Namibia travelled to Walvis Bay and was mounted at the foyer of the Municipality of Walvis Bay on 26th-27th May, 2006 to coincide with MAN's AGM and Conference. It was accompanied by two curators from Gibeon Unemployed Youth Forum who dressed in traditional dress and provided an additional display of cultural artefacts.

Internships.

During the financial year the Museums Association of Namibia provided five interternship to seven students who were directly involved in the creation of the 'Namibia's Night Skies' and 'Images at War' exhibition and also assisted to organise a

national essay-writing competition for schools. Two students from the History Department at the University of Namibia, Mr Timo Mashuna and Ms Helena Showa worked on the Images at War exhibition. The 'Namibia's Night Skies' exhibition was an initiative developed during discussions with a German intern, Ms Merret Scharr who had a specialist knowledge of astronomy. She worked with two other Namibian graduates from the Science Faculty at the University of Namibia, Ms Rauha Shimwafeeni and Mr S. Shali. Ms. Alma Nankela and Ms F. Phillipus worked for short periods of time as interns in support of the Heritage Hunt school competition.



Two MAN Interns, Mr Shali and Ms Shimwafeeni with Dr Silvester at the opening of the Namibia Night Sky exhibition.



Three MAN interns: Ms Showa, Mr Mashuna and Ms. Schnarr.

Calender of Activities (1st April, 2006 - 31st March, 2000)

2006

10th April	MAN Executive Committee Meeting.
6 th May	Review Meeting at Nakambale Museum
7 th May	Ohangwena Regional Museum Planning Workshop.
16 th May	Meeting with Commissioner of Prisons, re National Prison Museum.
23 rd -24 th May	Museum-D Workshop, Windhoek.
26 th -27 th May	Conference and 16 th AGM of Museums Association of Namibia, Walvis Bay. Mounting of !Nanseb Exhibition in Walvis Bay.
19 th June	MAN Executive Committee Meeting.
12 th July	Meeting with Commissioner of Prisons re. National Prison Museum.
5 th August	Official Opening of MAN Resource Centre & Office.
19 th August	Executive Committee Annual Planning Workshop, Tsumeb Cultural Village.
20 th August	Meeting with Namibia Wildlife Resorts re. Namutoni Museum.
21 st August	Meeting with Tsumeb Museum.
21 st August	Meeting with Tsumeb Cultural Village and Local Councillors.
22 nd August	Meeting with Grootfontein Museum.
26 th August	Official Opening of <i>'Images At War: Art in the Liberation Struggle'</i> Exhibition at John Muafangejo Art Centre by Hon. Hidino Hishongwa.
4 th September	Official Opening of <i>'Namibia's Night Sky: Our Window on to the Galaxy'</i> Exhibition by Hon. E Nghimtina, Minister of Mines and Energy.

5 th September	<i>'Art and Culture in the Liberation Struggle'</i> Student Workshop, John Muafangejo Art Centre.
19 th September	Meeting with City of Windhoek re. City of Windhoek Museum.
21 st September	Regional Museum Development Working Group.
2 nd October	Executive Committee meeting.
4 th -7 th October	MAN Delegation attends African Council of Museums Conference and AGM.
16 th October	Meeting with City of Windhoek re. City of Windhoek Museum.
19 th October	Meeting with Mr Ekandjo re. Omedi Museum project.
20 th October	Museum Education Working Group.
25 th October	Finance and Fundraising Working Group.
31 st October	Meeting at National Art Gallery of Namibia re. Charles Andersson Map Exhibition (with Swedish support).
6 th November	Meeting with Otjiwarongo Town Council re. 'Rescue Plan' for Otjiwarongo Heritage Explorium.
8 th November	Meeting at Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing re. regional budgetary support for museums.
9 th November	Hand-over by UNESCO of Digital Video Camera for use on the Heritage Hunt project.
10 th November	Review meeting re. Okakarara Community Culture and Tourism Centre.
15 th November	Meeting of Heritage Hunt Steering Committee
17 th - 18 th November	Site Evaluation Visit at proposed 'King Kauluma Museum'.
20 th November	Site Visit to Ondeshifilwa with National Heritage Council.
8 th December	Executive Committee meeting.
2007	
7 th -8 th February	Windhoek Museum Planning Workshop.

9 th February,	Executive Committee meeting.
13 th February	Meeting of UNESCO Culture Commission for Namibia.
14 th February,	Finance and Fundraising Working Group.
15 th -20 th February	Fact-finding Mission to Lüderitz re. Heritage Development Potential.
28 th February	Launch of Heritage Hunt School Competition.
2 nd March	Meeting with National Museum of Namibia re. Project partnerships.
19 th March	Kunene Regional Museum Planning Workshop
20 th -21 st March	MuseumD Software Training Course.
22 nd March	Presentation of draft 'Collective Database for National Cultural Heritage' at National Heritage Council.
30 th March	Museum Education Working Group.