



## **Annual Report of the Museums Association of Namibia (2010-2011) Ms Stella Imalwa (Chairperson)**

### **1. Introduction and Budgetary Overview**

The Chairperson's Report covers the activities that MAN has conducted during the 2010-2011 financial year ie. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011. I would like to start by thanking the members of MAN's Executive Committee, the Advisory Committee and our staff for their hard work over the year. MAN submitted a budget for N\$1.2 million to the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture for this financial year and received a grant of N\$592,000.00 ie. about half the budget.

The Executive Committee, therefore, sought additional external funding and over the course of the year MAN received a total of just over N\$1.4 million in external funding. The good news was that this enabled us to do more work than we would have been able to do otherwise. However it also meant that our work agenda had to adapt and that MAN took on a number of additional tasks. I would like to take the opportunity to briefly explain some of MAN's key achievements over the year.

### **2. Programmes and Achievements**

#### **2.1 School Clubs and Museums Exhibition Competition**

The sixth SCAMX competition took place in Lüderitz on 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. It was the largest ever organised by MAN and involved schools from all thirteen regions of Namibia. Negumbo Senior Secondary School won with their display on 'Onzimbogo': The clay Pot Industry ' and represented Namibia at the 'Isivivane Solwazi Spring School at Robben Island Museum. MAN purchased twenty purpose-build exhibition boards for use in the competition. The competition was co-funded by the AACRLS project and a number of commercial sponsors.

## **2.2 Exhibitions**

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany provided funding to enable MAN to purchase a mobile educational exhibition on *'The Holocaust'*. The exhibition consists of sixteen panels and can be used for educational workshops on human rights. It is stored in MAN's 'Exhibition Bank' at the National Archives of Namibia and available for loan.

Support was also provided to enable a small exhibition on *'Cassinga'* to be mounted at the Outapi War Museum.

## **2.3 Regional Museum Development Grants**

RMD grant payments that were made during the financial year covered payments to the Alte Fort Museum in Grootfontein for a new computer and printer, Gobabeb Desert Research Institute for the development of a new exhibition, Okakarara Community and Cultural Tourism Centre for research and the development of new exhibition materials and Nakambale Museum to enable the curator to attend training. MAN's commitment to encouraging the development of new museums were reflected in contributions to enable the new Gobabis Museum to obtain a laminating machine, the Kapiringi Museum project to host a planning workshop and payment to enable a member of the King Mandume Museum Management Committee to receive training.

## **2.4 International Networks.**

The Vice-Chairperson, Mr Aaron Nambadi, was delegated to represent the Museums Association of Namibia at the AGM of the South African Museums Association (SAMA) on 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

Our Project Planning and Training Officer is a member of a four member Team that has been tasked to facilitate the launch of a new regional association of museums and heritage associations. He attended a meeting in Gaborone, Botswana on 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September with museum directors from SADC countries that adopted a draft constitution and strategic plan for a SADCHA (SADC Heritage Association).

The Museums Association of Namibia continued to facilitate membership of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Council of African Museums (AFRICOM).

## **2.5 Annual General Meeting and Heritage Forum**

Our AGM took place in Outapi on 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 and the Hon. Kazenambo Kazenambo, (Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture) opened the AGM. We were very pleased that we were able to use the AGM to host a 'Heritage Forum' at which all the major heritage institutions in Namibia shared information about their work and their future plans. The forum, therefore, addressed the concern of many of our members that there should be better communication and co-operation between stakeholders in the heritage sector.

## **2.6 Internships**

An intern worked at MAN to assist with the SCAMX competition. MAN also provided training in the MD-System for computerised cataloguing of museum artefacts (as the second phase of its training programme) to ten student interns (mainly studying tourism or history at UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia). The students were to be posted to museums to provide support for computerised cataloguing. Five students were placed, but unfortunately due to delays in the release of funding from the donor the programme has had to be postponed.

## **2.7 Marketing: Museum Matters and MAN 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirt**

The bi-annual MAN newsletter, Museum Matters, was published twice (No. 18 in May, 2010 and No. 19 in December, 2010). A t-shirt was designed and printed to mark MAN's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The t-shirts were very popular and sold out and so are now a 'collector's item' !

## **2.8 MDG-F Programme on Sustainable Cultural Tourism for Namibia**

The Museums Association of Namibia assisted the Programme by facilitating the Annual Review and Planning Meeting that took place in Otjiwarongo in

## **2.9 Munyondo gwaKapande Cultural Village**

Under the MDG-F Programme MAN received funding from UN-Habitat to assist with the development of the Munyondo gwaKapande Cultural Village. Initial activities included the commissioning of a detailed architect's plan of the proposed development, the establishment of management and financial structures and training support for members of the Management Committee.

## **2.10 King Mandume Museum**

MAN received funding from the Embassy of Finland to enable a Feasibility Study to be conducted on the proposal to establish a new museum at Omhedi in Ohangwena Region (a region which, currently, does not have a museum). The Study was completed and Governance Training provided to members of the Management Committee.

## **2.11 City of Windhoek Museum Exhibition Plan**

A skeleton plan for the proposed new City of Windhoek Museum has been produced covering a range of topics about the history of the City and the local environment.

## **2.12 Heritage Handbook**

MAN has been working with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on the development of a 'Heritage Handbook' containing information about the laws and guidelines in place to help Namibians protect and preserve both our natural heritage and our cultural heritage.

## **2.13 Cultural Tourism (Supply and Demand Analysis)**

MAN has been working with the International Labour Organisation on a report that analyses the potential market for cultural tourism in Namibia with specific reference to the pilot projects being supported by the MDG-F Programme.

## **2.14 Heritage Hunt**

Three more regional Heritage Hunt Reports were completed with support from UNESCO under the MDG-F Programme. Reports now exist for Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto Regions. Further funding is being sought to enable the survey to be extended to the remaining seven regions of Namibia.

## **2.15 Heritage into Education/Education into Heritage**

A report was completed for the Namibia Institute for Educational Development (NIED) entitled 'Heritage into Education, Education into Heritage'. The report makes a series of recommendations for expanding the role of heritage on the school curriculum and on courses at institutes of higher education, but also makes

recommendations for increasing the capacity of museums and heritage sites as educational resources.

### **3. Challenges**

#### **3.1 Lack of Transport**

The staff of the Museums Association of Namibia are required to travel extensively to provide support and training to museums and new projects throughout Namibia, but do not have a vehicle. At present MAN relies on public transport or has to use members' private vehicles. As MAN is seeking to encourage the circulation of mobile exhibitions it would like to obtain a vehicle that could also be used to take small travelling exhibitions to the regions and meet with members. Efforts to obtain private sponsorship have been unsuccessful to date.

#### **3.2 Funding for Regional Museum Development.**

The Museums Association of Namibia budgeted to provide six grants of a maximum of N\$20,000.00 each for regional museum development. However, the Advisory Committee has argued that MAN needs more financial resources to assist new community-based museum projects to be launched.

It has been recommended that MAN should seek the resources to be able to provide two annual grants of N\$100,000 to provide start-up funding for new projects that have been approved by MAN. The funds to cover these grants come from the Grant-in-Aid received from Government and, unless there is a significant increase in the size of our grant, we can only make this change by dramatically cutting our activities in other areas or identifying a core funder to support some of our activities on an ongoing basis.

#### **3.3 Office Space and Staffing.**

MAN's office and resource centre is well situated, but is already too small. Museum curators often come to the office to read the materials available or for meetings. MAN has two work stations and a meeting table, but one of the rooms also serves as a kitchen. MAN has a small library, a photocopier, a laminating machine and a binding machine as well as a large number of files.

MAN has experienced a rapid increase in the demand for its services and is receiving project funding from an increasing number of sources. Ideally MAN would like to expand its staff with a staffing structure for three full-time posts. The Project Planning and Training Officer would become full-time and a full-time Finance and Admin & Membership Secretary would also be appointed with the Operations

Manager being able to concentrate on the organisation and implementation of activities. The increase in staff would require MAN to move to a new building that could provide three rooms.

### **3.4 Lack of a National Heritage Plan**

The Museums Association of Namibia believes that Namibia needs a co-ordinated approach to the development of heritage sites and museums. At present a number of initiatives are underway with funding from different sources and there is a danger of duplicating projects and this will mean that they might prove unsustainable or will burden the Government with significant, long-term financial commitments.

We believe that a national Heritage and Tourism Conference would allow each region to identify a 'unique' heritage attraction that could receive Government support would help to shape a national plan. Such attractions could include natural and cultural heritage and might, for example, include a 'Meteorite Centre'. We believe such an initiative would help develop regional identities and encourage greater tourism mobility within Namibia.

### **3.5 Need to Improve the Southern African Museum Network**

We believe that there is great potential for greater international co-operation and communication regarding common issues of concern, sharing training opportunities, skills and knowledge and developing cross-border research projects and exhibitions. MAN believes that international networks, such as ICOM, AFRICOM and SADCHA should be strengthened so that they can support greater regional co-ordination in the museum and heritage sector within Southern Africa.