

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019



Museums Association of Namibia
Making Museums Matter - Since 1990



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA 1ST APRIL 2018 – 31ST MARCH 2019

COMPILED BY:

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Ms Nehoa Hilma Kautondokwa - Museum Development Manager
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LAYOUT AND DESIGN:

Ms Ndapewoshali Ndahafa Ashipala

31ST MAY 2019



Museums Association of Namibia
Making Museums Matter - Since 1990



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The year has seen a dramatic escalation of the debate in Europe about the ways in which the legacy of “colonial collections” might be addressed. The new framework was epitomized by the development of guidelines by our sister organization, the German Museums Association for their members on dealing with such collections. MAN was responsible for coordinating the Namibian response to the guidelines and has been active in engaging with German museums that have significant Namibian collections.

The Federal Government of Germany has also established funding for provenance research on colonial collections. Potentially this presents great opportunities for Namibian museums. We believe that it is crucial that Namibians are involved in the process and that there should be a three stage process.

Firstly, there should be increased transparency about the content of collections from Namibia held by German museums. Secondly, ‘provenance research’ should not be restricted to the archives of German museums and the identification of objects obtained unethically. It should also include Namibian communities so that they can identify objects of particular cultural or historical significance. Finally, the process should enable the creation of new relationships between museums and communities in Germany and Namibia through the establishment of new collaborative projects. The collaboration should include support for capacity-development and the establishment or strengthening of museums in the regions. MAN will seek to ensure that MAN members are not only informed, but also involved in the development of these collaborative projects. One of our main focuses will be to make connections, where possible, between objects and the places that they came from.

Our Annual Report aims to highlight some of MAN’s achievements during the 2018-2019 Financial Year (to accompany our audited financial report). We received core funding from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture of N\$1,058,000.00 during the year, which covered just under half of the cost of our office rental, staffing and utility bills. MAN continued to actively seek external project funding to support activities and regional museum development. We believe strongly in the importance of partnerships to enable us to achieve our goals.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated and extremely hard-working team at MAN. Many people are surprised when I tell them that MAN only has three full-time staff. I believe that this is a tribute to the incredible results that Ms Ashipala, Mrs Kautondokwa and Dr Silvester achieve with the limited resources available and due to the personal sacrifices that they have made. I believe that MAN has proved itself to be a valuable contributor to the heritage sector that plays an important role in obtaining investment. I hope that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and all our donors will continue to recognize the value of the organization and to ensure its financial sustainability.

DR MARTHA AKAWA – SHIKUFA
CHAIRPERSON



The Museums Association of Namibia has three full-time permanent staff:



DR JEREMY SILVESTER
DIRECTOR

PhD. African History (University of London)
PGC. Education (University of London)
MA. Southern African Studies (University of York)
BA. (Joint Honours) History & English
(University College Cardiff, University of Wales)



MS NEHOA KAUTONDOKWA
MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

MA. Public & Visual History (UWC)
Postgrad Dip. Museums & Heritage Studies (UWC)
BA. Education (UNAM)



MS NDAPEWOSHALI ASHIPALA
OFFICE MANAGER

B. Finance Management (Hons) (IUM)
Cert. Accounting & Auditing (UNAM)
Dip. Labour & Employment Studies (UNAM)



MR TERRANCE PIETERS

was contracted to provide
book-keeping services for the organization.



During the current financial year MAN had six internships. MAN established a formal MOU with the Tourism Department at the Namibian University of Science and Technology.



ALFRED MUIFI
BA (Visual Arts), UNAM
1st February, 2018 – 31st July, 2018



NYASHA NYABEZI
BA (Tourism), IUM
1st July, 2018 – 31st January, 2019



MOSES HAMUTENYA
BA (Tourism Management), NUST
1st August, 2018- 31st January 2019



SAMORA CLOETE
BA (Tourism Management), NUST
15th February –15th July 2019



MEKULILO NDESHIPANDA KAKONYA
Bachelor of Multimedia (Honours)
(Media Arts), Multimedia University



ANNA HAITEMBU
BA (Tourism Management), NUST
1st February – 30th June 2019



VOLKER STRÄHLE
Diploma in Political Science, Freie
Universität Berlin, Germany



LAINA KAVARA
BA (Tourism Management), NUST
1st February – 30th June 2019

The following list includes, in kind, support (such as provision of flights and accommodation) as well as direct funding received.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE	N\$1,058,000.00
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EXTERNAL FUNDING SUPPORT

National Arts Council of Namibia (Heritage Week Grants)	N\$140,000.00
Carl Schlettwein Stiftung ('Past, Present & Future . . . ' Conference)	N\$140,000.00
University of Basel ('Past, Present & Future . . . ' Conference)	N\$23,255.00
German History Museum (Estimate: Flight & Accommodation – Cape Cross Seminar, Berlin)	N\$18,000.00
Glomdal Museum, Norway Refund of return air fare & train fares (Estimate: Accommodation & meals)	N\$9,763.84 N\$15,000.00
Goethe Institute ('Past, Present & Future . . . ' Conference) (Estimate: Conference support for flights, accommodation, evening event)	N\$60,000.00
Mopane Trust ('Past, Present & Future . . . ' Conference)	N\$10,000.00
Namibian History Trust ('Past, Present & Future . . . ' Conference)	N\$30,000.00
UNAM Press (Conference support – evening book launch)	N\$5,400.00
German Museums Association (Estimate: Flight & Accommodation – Hamburg Workshop)	N\$18,000.00
UK Global Challenges/SAHGF – Johannesburg/Durban (Estimate: Participation in 'Change the Story' Workshop)	N\$10,000.00
Ministry of International Relations & Co-operation (Genocide Mobile Exhibition and Teachers' Handbook)	N\$500,000.00
Commonwealth Association of Museums (Estimate: Accommodation, Flight & Meals – Gaborone)	N\$ 7,000.00
African Studies Association of Germany (Estimate: Flight & Accommodation – Africa Connects Workshop Liepzig)	N\$19,000.00
Grassi Museum, Leipzig (Estimate: Flight and Accommodation – Sensitive Heritage Conference, Leipzig)	N\$19,000.00
TOTAL (EXTERNAL FUNDING)	N\$1,024,418.84

TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	N\$2,082,418.84
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GOING CONCERN

Going concern is defined as "the ability of the entity to continue operating in the next 12 months, it is able to meet its obligations and does not face any threat of liquidation."

Is Museums Association of Namibia a Going Concern as at 31 March 2019?

Yes. The organisation has the following commitments from donors in the for the next few financial years

1. European Union - Museum Development as a Tool for Strengthening Cultural Rights in Namibia
End of Project/Funding: September 2020
Project/Grant Value: Euros 237,025.00
2. Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MOEAC)
End of Project/Funding: None
Project/Grant Value: To Be Confirmed
3. National Arts Council of Namibia – Namibian Heritage Week
End of Project/Funding: None
Project/Grant Value: N\$140,000.00
4. Gerda Henkel Foundation – Namibian Museum of Fashion
End of Project/Funding: April 2022
Project/Grant Value: Euros 101,828.00
5. Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (Namibia)
- Genocide Exhibition Project
End of Project/Funding: December 2021
Project/Grant Value: N\$1,500,000.00
6. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - Genocide Exhibition Project
End of Project/Funding: December 2021
Project/Grant Value: USD 5,000.00
7. Hedmark County Municipality – Tsumeb Cultural Village
End of Project/Funding: September 2021
Project/Grant Value: NOK 50,000.00





17TH APRIL MUSEUM OF NAMIBIAN MUSIC ARCHIVES SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A dynamic working group was established that organized research of the different archives of Namibian music, developed forms for the accessioning of items and a common template for the documentation of items in audio archives. The meetings were hosted by the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) and the National Archives of Namibia (NAN). The Sub-Committee held further meetings on 17th April, 17th May, 12th July, 2nd August and 4th September.

18TH-20TH APRIL: ZAMBEZI MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms Ashipala and Dr Silvester attended a Zambezi Museum Advisory Committee meeting in Katima Mulilo. It was agreed that a competition should be held to obtain a logo. A local tour operator agreed to sponsor a prize for the winner.

MAN ran a competition for logo design for the Zambezi Museum. The Committee short-listed the best entries. The designs were shown to the public who voted (through varied social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). Mr Max's submission received the highest votes, and thus announced as winner of the logo competition.





RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The idea of 'race' has a long history, but it was only in the 18th century that anthropologists promoted the theory that external or physical differences were an indication of inherent qualities and that certain racial and ethnic groups are superior or inferior to others. These concepts regarding 'race' served to justify European colonialism with its belief in the superiority of European civilisation.

Racism is the belief that all members of a group possess characteristics or qualities specific to their 'race'. It is a belief system constructed for ideological, social, political and economic reasons. There is no scientific basis for 'race'.

Genocide is the most extreme consequence of racial discrimination.

2ND MAY MUSEUM OF NAMIBIA MUSIC LOGO

MAN also ran a competition to select a logo design for the Museum of Namibian Music. All logo designs submitted to MAN were open to public voting through varied social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Ms Mpingana's submission received the highest number votes, and her logo was selected for the museum.

9TH MAY MAN DISPLAY AT THE 'EUROPE DAY' CELEBRATION IN WINDHOEK

The European Delegation to Namibia organised a celebration of Europe Day, under the slogan, 'Our heritage: where the past meets the future'. MAN's participation was geared toward promoting the Cultural Rights as Tool for Museum Development Project, currently under implementation by MAN, in partnership with the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture, and sponsored by the European Delegation to Namibia.

20TH-24TH MAY WORKSHOP AT JOHANNESBURG HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE INSTITUTE AND EVENT AT DURBAN HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE INSTITUTE

The workshop focused on the 'Changing the Story' project which worked with communities dealing with a legacy of violence in countries such as Cambodia, Rwanda and South Africa. The project explores the ways in which civil society can, through arts and heritage projects, work with young people living in post-conflict societies. The participants were also invited to take part in an event to mark the 10th anniversary of the Durban Holocaust and Genocide Institute.

24TH-25TH MAY MEETING AT MUSEUMAFRICA

Dr Silvester collected a set of CD-ROMs with images of the cultural artifacts in the Fourie Collection from Namibia's San communities. Copies of the images have been deposited at the National Archives of Namibia and provided to the Namibian San Council. MAN entered into an agreement with MuseumAfrica. MAN is working with the Namibia San Council to develop a mobile exhibition and publication based on the objects.





7TH JUNE

**"THE STONE CROSS FROM CAPE CROSS
– COLONIAL OBJECTS AND HISTORICAL JUSTICE", SYMPOSIUM**

Dr Silvester took part in the symposium in Berlin that debated the possible return of the original Cape Cross to Namibia. Dr Silvester argued that many objects have sacred links with particular places and significance to particular local communities. He felt that the Cape Cross and other sacred objects should return, but that this should be combined with a package that would include capacity-building (training for curators) and the development of local community-based museums. Dr Silvester argued that a new exhibition in the German History Museum in Berlin should be produced with Namibian partners to fill the "gap" left by the removal of the Cape Cross.

7TH-30TH JUNE

VISITS TO MUSEUMS IN BREMEN & HAMBURG.

PARTICIPATION IN "AFRICAN CONNECTIONS" CONFERENCE, LEIPZIG

Dr Silvester was invited to speak at the annual Conference of the African Studies Association of Germany as part of a panel on "Making Connections through Collections: Namibian objects in the German-speaking museum landscape".





**01ST – 17TH JULY 2018:
KALAHARI ENCOUNTERS EUROPE TOUR**

MAN facilitated the implementation of a tour as one of the outcomes of a project funded by UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity. The project involved a collaboration between an Amsterdam-based quartet led by the Namibian musician, Shishani Vranckx, and four women (Xoan //An Kgao, Ao N!ani, Nqae Komtsa, and Baq'u Kha //An) from the //Xao /oba village, in the Omaheke Region.

The project aimed to strengthening capacities and creating new markets for musicians from Omaheke Region drawing on local intangible cultural heritage, whilst showcasing the benefits of cultural exchange. The group had performed live at the Warehouse Theatre in Windhoek June 2017. The group then travelled to Europe to perform in July 2018. The group performed in the Netherlands at the Bimhuis, on the Dutch-Belgium border at Baarle-Nassua; in Germany at Rudolstadt; and Austria - Kasumama Festival. An award winning cd of the group's music has gathered international recognition. The tour introduced traditional San musical rhythms to large appreciative audiences. UNESCO approved the full narrative and financial report that was submitted by MAN at the end of the project.





28TH-30TH AUGUST
"THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF NAMIBIAN HERITAGE"
CONFERENCE, WINDHOEK

The Conference was a collaborative project between the University of Namibia, University of Basel (Switzerland) and MAN. A call for papers was circulated through the networks of the three partner organisations and over 40 presentations were received. Whilst we had budgeted for 90 participants, we eventually accommodated 120 participants over two and a half days.

Topics discussed during the Conference ranged from an introduction to the Oranjemund shipwreck to a panel discussion about the best strategy for training for the Namibian museum sector. One important aspect of the Conference was the involvement of a number of curators from German ethnographic museums who introduced their Namibian collections and potential collaborative projects. The Conference generated a lot of heated debate, both during the sessions and in the coffee breaks, as several papers criticized the museum sector and argued for new approaches, such as the need to bridge the current divide between the arts and museums.

30TH -31ST AUGUST "MUSEUM DIALOGUE"

MAN members also participated in the more intimate "Museum Conversations" event which started on the afternoon of 30th August with a tour of the Independence Memorial Museum and a public lecture by Prof. Ciraj Rassool. The workshop coincided with the third return of human remains from Germany and several participants observed the solemn event that took place at Parliament Gardens. The event was supported by the Goethe Institute and was one of a series of workshops that have taken place in countries such as the Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania. The Goethe Institute are planning a larger Conference drawing together participants from the different workshops in September, 2019.



17TH-22ND SEPTEMBER NAMIBIAN HERITAGE WEEK 2018

The Namibian Heritage Week was held during the week of 17th–22nd September, celebrated under the Rukwangali slogan, “Turunganeni Kumwe”. The Namibian Heritage Week Team adopted a new approach – that the slogan each year will be given in a local language to reflect the importance of maintaining language diversity to sustain cultural diversity. Ms Vakamuena (National Art Gallery of Namibia) served as the Chairperson and Ms Ndapewoshali Ashipala (MAN) as Vice-Chairperson of the Team.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture launched the Week at an event hosted by the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre. The launch was also blessed by the presence of Axali Doeseb, the composer of the Namibian national anthem. MAN participated by facilitating the Heritage Week grants sponsored by the National Arts Council of Namibia (NACN). Ms Ashipala created the marketing designs, for the week (posters, social media posts and t-shirts). She designed a master poster for all activities, as well as posters for the different activities that took place around the country. The Team held a meeting in November to review the activities that had taken place and to plan, already, for 2019. A full report on the activities conducted with the grants was submitted to the NACN



28TH OCTOBER – 1ST NOVEMBER
INTERNAL WORKSHOP ON DEALING WITH OBJECTS
AND COLLECTIONS FROM COLONIAL CONTEXTS, HAMBURG

Ms Kautondokwa participated in a workshop organized by the German Museums Association. The workshop was focused on discussing key issues arising from reviews of the draft 'Guidelines on Dealing with Collections from Colonial Contexts' produced by the Association. The workshop included academics and museum professionals from Germany, Namibia, Tanzania, Bolivia, the USA (Alaska), Samoa, Australia, New Zealand, France, Turkey, and the Netherlands. All workshop participants submitted reviews of the publication prior to attending the workshop. Namibia submitted a combined review from heritage institutions and practitioners.



13TH-19TH NOVEMBER ESTABLISHING COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH NORWEGIAN PARTNERS

Dr Silvester attended a meeting in Hedmark, Norway. The meeting was also attended by representatives of Oshikoto Regional Council who were discussing collaboration. An agreement was reached that funding would be sought for MAN to work in partnership with Tsumeb Town Council to renovate the Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo Cultural Village in Tsumeb. A full report on the visit is available from MAN upon request.

29TH NOVEMBER NATIONAL HERITAGE COUNCIL RETREAT

Dr Silvester made a presentation on the neglected role of the National Heritage Council in protecting 'heritage objects' and the potential use of the National Heritage Act to assist in restitution cases. Discussion also took place about the ways in which MAN might be able to assist in identifying objects of heritage significance in the regions.



9TH-14TH DECEMBER
"SENSITIVE HERITAGE" CONFERENCE, LEIPZIG, GERMANY

The Conference focused on the debates around restitution and colonial collections in ethnographic museums. Dr Silvester was invited to present a paper and spoke about the impact of the return of sacred stones from Finland and the ways in which the repatriation of objects can provide opportunities for developing new relationships between communities in Namibia and Germany.



17TH DECEMBER, 2018 TO 6TH JANUARY, 2019
THE MAN OFFICE & RESOURCE CENTRE WAS CLOSED FOR THE XMAS HOLIDAY



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Namibian music is incredibly vast. The museum will showcase all forms of Namibian Music; genres, history, cultures, instruments etc. based on the submissions made by the Namibian public. The museum will be a great space to celebrate Namibia's great musicians, past, present and future. The museum will also showcase Namibian music to the world as we have over a million foreign visitors every year.

The museum will complement the transient cultural festivals (organised by Directorate of Culture within the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture) that have provided an important focal point for safeguarding musical traditions in Namibia and showcase both traditional Namibian music and the diverse contemporary forms on Namibian music at present across all genres.

Music plays a crucial role in Namibian society as lyrics, rhythms and dances encapsulate community identity and social values. Traditional music and dance is one of the most common way in which communities express their culture and through which visitors experience Namibian culture. Unfortunately, there is nowhere in Namibia that serves as a musical hub where we can celebrate and share this musical diversity and provide a permanent exhibition and forum for intercultural dialogue and learning.

The development of the museum is of the four components of the "Museum Development as a Tool for Strengthening Cultural Rights in Namibia" project funded by the European Union. The European Union will provide 237,025.00 Euros over a two-year period to support activities being carried out by the Museums Association of Namibia to support regional museum development. During the two-year project, the Museums Association of Namibia will develop two exhibitions and their respective publications on San History and Culture and Ondonga History and Culture. The Museums Association of Namibia also work in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to develop two new museums namely, the Museum of Namibia Music and the Zambezi Museum.

The museum will not only showcase artefacts and information. We plan for the museum to be an interactive one where visitors can enjoy the experience of Namibian music and instruments. With further development, we also aim for the museum to be a venue for musical performances, conferences and workshops and perhaps with time, music classes. There is no limit on the growth and development of the museum and all the components of the museum. We plan to have the museum get bigger and better with time.

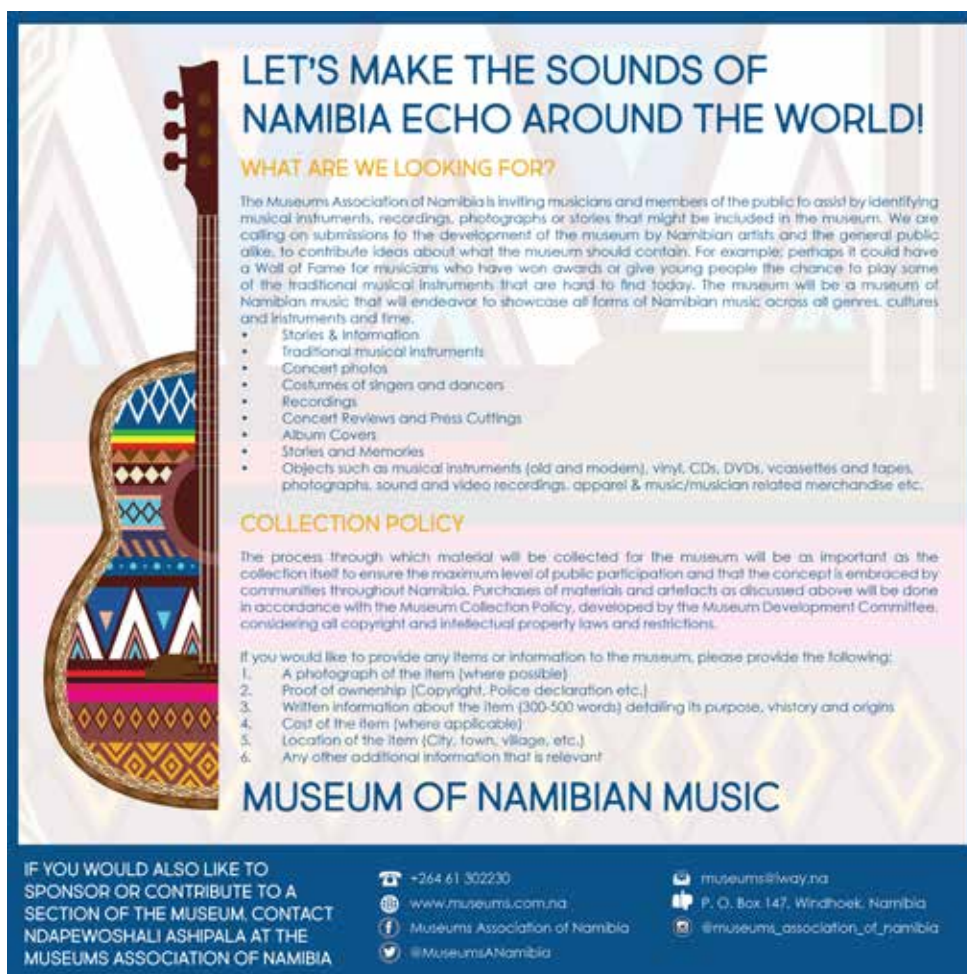
NAMIBIAN MUSIC IS MUSIC THAT HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY, OR WITH NAMIBIANS, OR IN NAMIBIA, EXPRESSING NAMIBIAN HISTORY, CULTURE OR LIFESTYLE.

MUSEUM OF NAMIBIAN MUSIC

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION IMPLEMENTED BY THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

2ND JANUARY 2019
ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

The Allgemeine Zeitung published a front page article about the Conference that MAN had co-facilitated the previous August. The article provoked a series of letters that alleged that MAN was seeking to destroy existing museums. We took these unfounded allegations extremely seriously. We immediately met with the editor and reproduce in our annual report the letter and press statement that we sent in response.



LET'S MAKE THE SOUNDS OF NAMIBIA ECHO AROUND THE WORLD!

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Museums Association of Namibia is inviting musicians and members of the public to assist by identifying musical instruments, recordings, photographs or stories that might be included in the museum. We are calling on submissions to the development of the museum by Namibian artists and the general public alike, to contribute ideas about what the museum should contain. For example; perhaps it could have a Wall of Fame for musicians who have won awards or give young people the chance to play some of the traditional musical instruments that are hard to find today. The museum will be a museum of Namibian music that will endeavor to showcase all forms of Namibian music across all genres, cultures and instruments and time.

- Stories & Information
- Traditional musical instruments
- Concert photos
- Costumes of singers and dancers
- Recordings
- Concert Reviews and Press Cuttings
- Album Covers
- Stories and Memories
- Objects such as musical instruments (old and modern), vinyl, CDs, DVDs, cassettes and tapes, photographs, sound and video recordings, apparel & music/musician related merchandise etc.

COLLECTION POLICY

The process through which material will be collected for the museum will be as important as the collection itself to ensure the maximum level of public participation and that the concept is embraced by communities throughout Namibia. Purchases of materials and artefacts as discussed above will be done in accordance with the Museum Collection Policy, developed by the Museum Development Committee, considering all copyright and intellectual property laws and restrictions.

If you would like to provide any items or information to the museum, please provide the following:

1. A photograph of the item (where possible)
2. Proof of ownership (Copyright, Police declaration etc.)
3. Written information about the item (300-500 words) detailing its purpose, history and origins
4. Cost of the item (where applicable)
5. Location of the item (City, town, village, etc.)
6. Any other additional information that is relevant

MUSEUM OF NAMIBIAN MUSIC

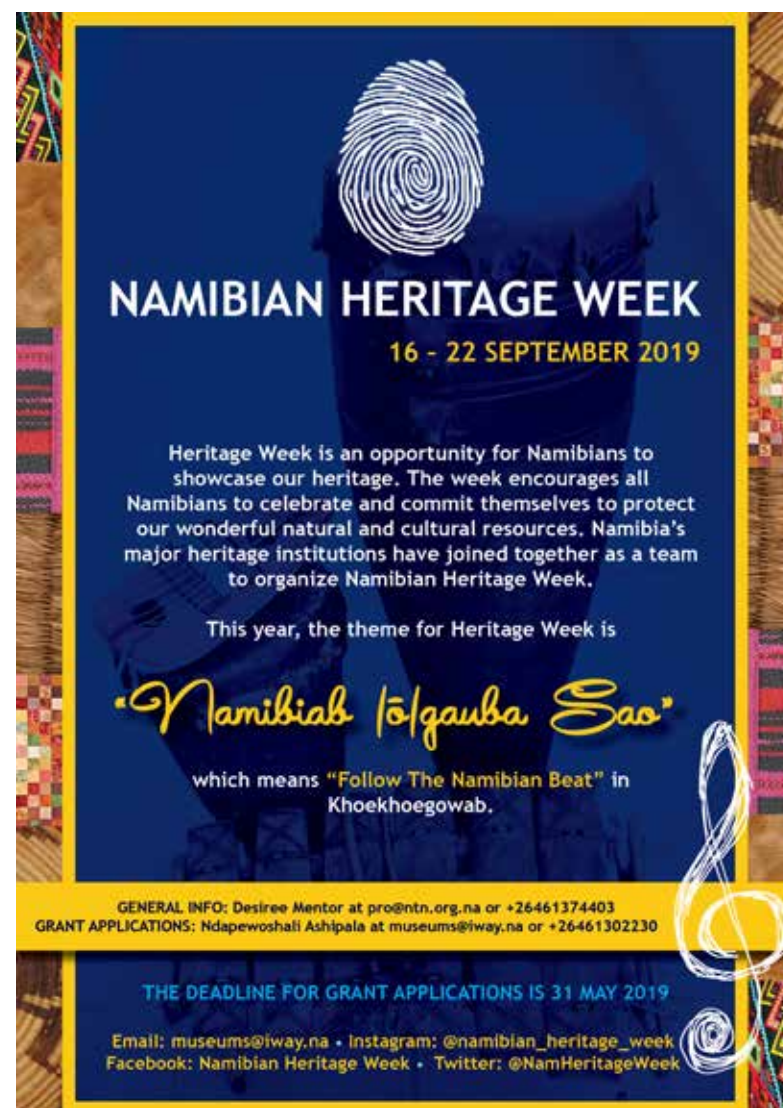
IF YOU WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SPONSOR OR CONTRIBUTE TO A SECTION OF THE MUSEUM, CONTACT NDAPEWOSHALI ASHIPALA AT THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

+264 61 302230
www.museums.com.na
Museums Association of Namibia
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24TH JANUARY
DIGITALISATION OF LIBERATION STRUGGLE SONGS

An agreement was reached with NBC to facilitate the digitalisation of obsolete DATT recordings of liberation struggle songs recorded in Kwanza Sul in 1982 as part of the research and collections plan for the Museum of Namibian Music.



5TH FEBRUARY NAMIBIAN HERITAGE WEEK MEETING

MAN participated in the meeting that agreed on the theme, slogan and poster design for 2019. The poster was designed by Ms Ashipala. MAN was also able to successfully secure support from the National Arts Council of Namibia to provide grants to MAN members to encourage activities in the regions.

25TH-27TH FEBRUARY ZAMBEZI MUSEUM SITE VISIT

A site meeting took place with members of the Zambezi Museum Committee, Nina Maritz (Architect), the Zambezi Department of Works and Transport and Philip Wessels (Landscape Gardener). The meeting discussed the draft bill of quantity for repairs and a vision for integrating the museum with the surrounding park.



6TH MARCH

MEETING WITH NAMIBIAN SAN COUNCIL, WINDHOEK

Dr Silvester was invited to attend a workshop to discuss the exhibition project and to meet stakeholders, including the Office for Marginalised Communities within the Prime Minister's Office.

10TH-12TH MARCH

HUMAN REMAINS MANAGEMENT: EXTENDING THE CONVERSATION THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA' WORKSHOP, GABORONE, BOTSWANA

The workshop was the third regional workshop organized by a consortium involving MAN, IZIKO Museums of South Africa, the National Museum of Botswana and other stakeholders. The workshops have focused on knowledge-sharing about the development of policies and practices in the region relating to the return and 'management' of human remains in museums. Dr Silvester and Dr Nankela presented a paper with the title: 'Remembering and Respecting Tshū!Kō and! Kai: Namibian Practices and Policy Regarding the Return of Human Remains'. The workshop was also attended by Ms Moombolah-Goagoses (Directorate of Heritage and Culture Programmes, MET), Ms Nzila Mubusisi (National Museum of Namibia), Dr Alma Nankela (National Heritage Council) and Ms Kileni Fernando (Namibian San Council). A full report on the workshop is available from MAN upon request.

13TH-15TH MARCH

MEETING WITH MUSEUMAFRICA

After the workshop in Gaborone Dr Silvester was able to travel to MuseumAfrica to meet with staff there and obtain the final official permission and rights for the photographs of the objects and to meet with the new curator of the Fourie collection.



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Namibia

MAN Refutes Allgemeine Zeitung Article

On Wednesday the 02nd January 2019, the Allgemeine Zeitung Newspaper published an article titled "Controversy over Colonial History – Museums Association demands an end to the alleged glorification of the past".

The Museum Association of Namibia (MAN) strongly refutes the non-factual information and derogatory allegations published in this article which seems intended to damage the good reputation of MAN. The article seems to refer to a report about a Conference on the 'Past, Present and Future of Namibian Heritage' that was organized by MAN in partnership with the University of Namibia and the University of Basel.

However, the report was not written by the Museums Association of Namibia or any formal representative of the Museums Association of Namibia. The Museums Association of Namibia is not aware of the author or the origin of the report referred to. We can only assume that the report was authored by an individual(s) who attended the conference and reflects their personal response to the debates and discussions that took place.

On Wednesday the 12th of September 2018, the Museums Association of Namibia sent out a press release to all the major media houses, including the Allgemeine Zeitung Newspaper titled "Press Release: The Past, Present and Future of Namibian Heritage Conference" which provided our official overview of the conference. The same report titled "Thinking About Namibian Heritage" was also published on the 13th of September 2018 on the organisation's website <https://www.museums.com.na/>. The article is currently the second most recent article on the homepage of the website. The article in the paper mentioned the website (indicating that the reporter did visit the website but failed to read the information about the Conference published there) which indicates a lack of professionalism. On what basis did the newspaper assume that the document in its possession was an official MAN report?

Furthermore, the Museums Association of Namibia was closed for the festive season until Monday 7th January 2019 and therefore, no communication was made between the Allgemeine Zeitung Newspaper and the Museums Association of Namibia to verify its 'facts'. If it had been, the Museums Association of Namibia would have categorically rejected all of the information published in the article as false.

The Museums Association of Namibia herewith renders its extreme disappointment in this type of sensationalist, unprofessional journalism and therefore demands a written retraction and apology for the publishing of this article which is not only completely devoid of fact but is also slanderous and tarnishing to the reputation of the Museums Association of Namibia and its partner organisations which are also mentioned in the article. We remain strongly committed to the development of museums in Namibia and constructive debate about their role in our society.

J.G. Silvester

Dr Jeremy Silvester
Director

Museums Association of Namibia - Making Museums Matter Since 1990



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Namibia

THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA: MAKING MUSEUMS MATTER

- Dr Martha Akawa (Chairperson, MAN) & Dr Jeremy Silvester (Director, MAN)

A lot has been written over the past couple of weeks about the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN). The information provided has not always been accurate and so we would like to take this opportunity to provide our own account of MAN's work. We use the slogan 'Making Museums Matter' because we are passionate advocates of the role of museums in Namibian society. We do not manage museums, but work with museums that request our assistance. Museums in Namibia have a number of different management structures. For example, the Independence Memorial Museum resorts directly under the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and the Military Museum in Okahandja resorts directly under the Ministry of Defence, whilst other private, community or municipal museum are run by Boards.

MAN is a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) that was established shortly after independence, in 1990, as an association of Namibian museums with the goal of supporting museum development in Namibia. MAN's role was recognised in Namibia's first cultural policy, 'Unity in Diversity' and, from 2005, MAN started to receive grant-in-aid from the Government to support the organization and to help it provide training and regional museum development grants. MAN has also been able to successfully raise funding from external donors for a number of projects. In 2010 MAN was registered as a 'Not-For-Gain' Section 21 Company. MAN's Annual General Meetings have provided an opportunity for museum and heritage workers from a diverse range of institutions to exchange views and learn from each other. MAN's philosophy on museum developed is best expressed in our 'Vision' for the Namibian museum sector which reads as follows:

Namibian museums will be a force for positive change in society. The Museums Association of Namibia will strive to ensure that Museums in Namibia will be inclusive educational resources that make a significant contribution to nation-building and achieving the goals of the Harambee Prosperity Plan and Vision 2030. Museums will be important educational resources and forums that serve as cultural contact zones and windows on the wider world.

A network of museums (including art galleries, cultural villages, archives and other institutions tasked with safeguarding and promoting Namibia's heritage) will serve every region of Namibia. Members of this network will collaborate to increase the quality of their services and products.

Museums will provide access to knowledge – focusing on our unique tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage. Museums will involve the communities that they serve in both the governance and processes of exhibition-planning and museum making. Museums will provide learners with illustrative learning experiences beyond the classroom. Museums will serve both as centres of creativity and dialogue for Namibians as well as tourist attractions that encourage visitors to travel to all corners of our beautiful nation, and to generate income for the local hospitality and craft industry.

MAN has been particularly committed to encouraging the involvement of young people in museums through activities such as the School Clubs and Museums Exhibition Project (SCAMX) which has run for ten years and provided internships for young people to get experience in museum work. We have organized training

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workshops for museum curators (often with supporting handbooks) on topics such as exhibition design, marketing museums and financial management for museums. We have developed new mobile exhibitions, on topics such as the use of plants in traditional medicine, the history of migrant labour, the impact of climate change on Namibia and the cultural and historical significance of the Baobab Tree. We work throughout the country. For example, we have installed a hanging system and a permanent exhibition on liberation struggle in the Kavango Museum, in Rundu as well as a new permanent exhibition in Keetmanshoop Museum.

MAN has, to date, provided over 80 regional museum development grants which have supported items as diverse as termite eradication in Grootfontein Museum, to Eduventures for equipment for their Ombombo Mobile Classroom for environmental education, the installation of a security system for the archive and library of the Namibia Scientific Society and providing camera and computer equipment to museums, such as Nakambale Museum in Olukonda. It is unfortunate that the reduction in our Government grant in recent years, due to the economic challenges Namibia faces, has forced us to pause or reduce these activities, but we remain committed to their reintroduction when funding is available.

Today, museums, globally, are reflecting on the history of their collections. We have, for example, been in dialogue with our sister organization, the German Museums Association, about a report that has been produced about 'colonial collections' in German museums and demands, in Germany, to 'decolonize museums'. Indeed, many German museums have large collections of objects from Namibia and are actively engaged in 'provenance research', meaning that they are investigating the way in which these objects were obtained. A lively debate is currently taking place in the German museum sector about the possible restitution of objects that were unethically obtained and the development of new collaborative projects between museums in Namibia and Germany. The new dynamic presents a tremendous opportunity for the Namibian museum sector to build new relationships with colleagues in Germany.

'The Past, Present and Future of Namibian Heritage' Conference (which we organized in August, 2018) took place in partnership with the University of Namibia and the University of Basel. The Conference contained 43 presentations over two and a half days from a range of museum curators and heritage students. The papers were sometimes provocative and critical of our work, but also created an opportunity for reflection and engagement. We have also started to include museum reviews by young Namibians in the MAN newsletter. Whilst museums may not always agree with the criticisms we receive, we believe it is important to be aware of them.

We believe that the future presents the possibility of strengthening, expanding and diversifying the Namibian museum sector. MAN, for example, is currently working with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to develop the Museum of Namibian Music in Omuthiya and the Zambezi Museum in Katima Mulilo (as Namibia's first ecomuseum). We believe that these are exciting times for our museum sector, but that we will only achieve the best results if we work together. We look forward to continuing to work with all our museum partners to 'Make Museums Matter' to all Namibians.

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Due to funding constraints MAN produced a double issue of our newsletter, Museum Matters, No. 34 & 35. The newsletter is sent to members and a number of international museum organisations to showcase work in the museum sector in Namibia.





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