



# Newsletter

Men on the Side of the Road (WO348)

April 2014

For the remainder of 2014, MSR will be running a series of articles about issues important to us, our members and our work. We welcome your feedback and ideas.

## **Why are we still at the sites and how can we solve this problem?**

As part of the development of our members, we have decided to institute a discussion at each of the monthly community meetings. At the meeting of 4th February, the topic was **'Why are we still at the sites and how can we solve this problem?'**

The discussion takes place solely in Oshiwambo, and is facilitated by MSR staff.

It was the first time that we have tried this activity, and it started slowly, but soon people warmed to the topic, and to having their voices heard. Below are the points that were raised in the discussion.

- We go there to find jobs
- It's a place for opportunity to find part time jobs because we only work some days in a week, as it is a place where temporary jobs are easily offered.
- We do not have qualifications for permanent work.
- If we go for training we will not have time to get day jobs to buy food for our families.
- We do not have necessary tools to work with e.g tool boxes.
- Some employers pay us too little money, so we end up leaving the job and go back to sites.
- It is not easy to get references from some employers.

Members encouraged each other to get references on every job they get. They pointed out that it is hard to change the employer's behaviors on paying less money as members are often told that if they don't want to work they can go and employers would get other people to work for them (high unemployment rate). They encouraged each other to take their children home (Ovamboland) while they were looking for work and to go and collect them if they get permanent jobs. Members realized the need to go for training to get skills and become employable, but did many did not see how they could do this, as the need to survive is so great.

More inside!



## New membership cards

For a long time we have felt that our membership cards do not portray a professional image of the organization, so we are pleased to announce that we have teamed up with Schoemans Office Systems, who are going to be printing much more professional looking cards for our members.

When we showed the prototype at the recent community meeting, everyone was very excited about the professionally printed card.

Over the coming months we will be issuing new cards for all current members.

## Farewell

Paulus Ameenya has been working as an intern at MSR since October 2013 and sadly it is time for us to say farewell. Paulus has been a great asset to the organisation, and has run extremely successful computer classes (see picture below), as well as honing his minute taking skills. He has produced a number of brochures for use in the Paper block research project commencing in March. Thank you Paulus for your enthusiasm and hard work, and we hope you will keep in touch with us.



## 2030 in focus

NBC came and filmed one of the computer classes in action, as well as interviewing MSR staff and members for the programme '2030 in Focus'. The programme will be aired on the second Sunday in May, when the show is devoting the entire month to issues around employment, and unemployment. Thank you for the opportunity to showcase our work.



The NBC cameraman filming during the computer class, run by Paulus Ameenya.



An MSR member being interviewed by NBC.

## Statistics

cont.

MSR continues to gather statistics in an effort to monitor and improve our performance.

Between 1st January and 31st March 2014, we connected 49 people to job opportunities, and collectively they will earn almost N\$260 000.00.

If you think you can; or you think you can't, you will be right.

Stay positive, and think 'I CAN'

## Job seekers corner

The following people have now completed Life Skills and Money Management and are actively seeking work:

- Abraham , Grade 10  
37 years of age, has painting experience  
Well-disciplined and neat
- Elias, 32 years old  
Certificate in Tiling , Painting and Glazing from The KAYEC Trust, 3 years of tilling experience.
- Phillemon, 37 years old  
Grade 12, has plumbing experience  
Also in possession of Forklift Truck Licence

Please contact the office on 061 305892 or email [mensideofroad@gmail.com](mailto:mensideofroad@gmail.com) if you have a vacancy, or would like further details about the person.

## Help us make a difference....

You too can have a lasting impact on helping people live the life they are capable of; by working with us to give people the tools and resources to improve their lives, rather than being dependent on handouts.

### Funding:

MSR Projects  
Training opportunities

### Within your organisation:

Internships;  
Job and training opportunities

### In your personal capacity:

Use your unique skills to create positive change within these communities;  
Provide equipment and tools required by members (e.g. old laptops, gardening equipment, etc.);  
Contact MSR for potential workers;  
Always ask to see the MSR card.

## Our corporate members, donors and partners

MSR can only undertake their work with support from corporate Namibia, other organizations and philanthropic individuals. We are grateful for the support we receive:

Capricorn Investment Holdings Ltd		IJG Securities (Pty) Ltd
Bank Windhoek	Paratus Telecom	SME's Compete
Price Waterhouse Coopers	Avril Payment Solutions	Business Financial Solutions
Santam Namibia	XL The Travel Professionals	The KAYEC Trust
ABSA Barclays	Janton Consulting cc	Namib Mills
Namibia Breweries Ltd	EIF	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
NG Kerk Eros	PKF Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers	Blackburn University, UK
Schoemans Office Systems	The Namibian Literacy Trust	GIZ
Eden Imports and Export cc	Ministry of Health & Social Services	The Virtual Consulting Group
Imago Dei Poverty & Welfare Relief	Old Mutual	CABINcc
Chamber of Mines	The Society of Friends	NABCOA
SANLAM Namibia		The Nampower Foundation

*Thank you for your support:*

**Association not for Gain (Reg 21/2007/025 )  
Welfare Organisation (WO348)**

*Bank account details:*

*MSR (Namibia)*

*Bank Windhoek: Main Branch*

*Account: 8001384357*

*Branch Code: 481 972*

***If you want your donation to be used for training, please use this account:***

*MSR training account*

*Bank Windhoek: Main Branch*

*Account: 8002323840*

*Branch Code: 481 972*



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