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PROGRESS REPORT FEBRUARY 2012



MEN ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD (WO348)

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OPENING OF COMPUTER CENTRE

In November 2011 MSR was honoured to welcome the Canadian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Adele Dion, as well as a Trustee from the Pinnacle Metropolitan Empowerment Trust to officially open the new Computer Centre. The event was also attended by members of MSR and representatives of the media.

In her address Her Excellency said: Canada's strategy to stimulate Sustainable Economic Growth in partner countries focuses on three paths: (i) Building economic foundations; (ii) Growing businesses; and (iii) Investing in people. It is clear to me that through this new Computer Centre, together with MSR we are following the third path and *making an investment in people* in this community. Canada's Sustainable Economic Growth strategy seeks to help developing countries increase their productive capacity and provide new opportunities for their citizens. "Men on the side of the road" are important citizens, and they are deserving of these opportunities.

Gida Sekandi, board member of MSR thanked the donors who made the centre possible and welcomed everyone to the centre, where members have free access to the facilities to produce CV's and business cards, scan the media for job opportunities and get guidance from MSR staff or volunteers.

Below left: MSR members using the centre.

Below right: Adele Dion, Ingah Ekandjo and Gida Sekandi officially open the new centre.



MSR statistics

Nov/Dec 2011: Job connections: 14 Visitors to office: 183
January 2012: Job connections: 15 Visitors to office: 121

NAMIBIA BREWERIES 'MAN IN A MILLION' COMPETITION

MSR was delighted to hear the news, just before Christmas, that they had been selected by the Namibia Breweries Windhoek Draught competition winner as the charity to benefit from a donation of N\$250000.00.

What made the donation even more special is the fact that the winner of the N\$1 million prize is a past member of MSR. Understandably he has decided to keep his identity a secret, but we are very grateful to him for choosing us.

At the handover Mr Sven Thieme, Executive Chairman of the Olthaver & List Group said that employment creation is the single biggest factor that will make a difference in the social infrastructure of Namibia, and expressed his delight that the winner had chosen MSR as 'it ties beautifully with Olthaver & Lists purpose and values.

This wonderful donation will enable us to assist even more of our members on the path to getting and keeping a permanent job, through the training and development of our members.



Please remember that the job sites are public places, and MSR has no control over the people who wait there. (not all are MSR members)

If you need some help, rather contact us to arrange the placement. Or choose someone with a card with the new logo as displayed at the top of the first page. Holders of these new cards have participated in our 'Life Skills' training course.

We have carpentry, bricklayer and electrical graduates from The KAYEC Trust who are looking for internships and work opportunities.

Call MSR if you can give them a chance to gain some experience.

CHILDRENS BOOKS APPEAL

In our last issue I mentioned that a number of our members are working hard with CABIN cc and Selma, a volunteer, to improve their English language skills. At their request for additional reading material, MSR is now appealing to its supporters to look out any English language childrens books that they no longer want, and donate them to MSR for our members to read. Either drop them off at our office: Workshop #1, Habitat Research Centre, or let the office (061 305892) know and we will arrange to collect them.

LIFE SKILLS: THE FIRST STEP TO SUCCESS

In September 2011 MSR introduced a 'Life Skills' course, taught by Hilya, our admin/training officer, which covers such essential skills as interview skills, communication, negotiation problem solving etc. We also encourage members to more pro-active in their job search. One of our members, who had previous experience working in a take away, asked us for copies of his CV, and went to the Southern Industrial estate where he decided to visit all of the take-aways to ask for a job. The 2nd person he spoke to took him on at their other store, and he is now working full time.

Overall we find that about 40% of our members completing life skills find a job within a month or two.