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Namibia Contact

What is Namibia Contact ?

In 1996, a group of Dutch people, who have had close ties with Namibia during the late decades of the last century, decided to establish an independent committee to increase attention for Namibia in the Netherlands and to develop a network between these two countries. This group, '*Namibia Contact*', currently consists of eight people who have been working as experts in Namibia for education and health organisations, in ethnology, in the Netherlands diplomatic service while one is Namibian by birth. '*Namibia Contact*' tries to strengthen the image of Namibia in the Netherlands by applying their knowledge and experience.

What does Namibia Contact want to do ?

The contribution of the Dutch government to the development of Namibia is being closely followed and whenever appropriate '*Namibia Contact*' makes its voice heard. The committee therefore keeps close track of the developments and official relations between both countries.

'Namibia Contact' tries to focus on a broad range of aspects like art, economy, cultural and social aspects, health care, tourism, land reform, nature conservation and wildlife. They do this by organising lectures, expositions and seminars, exchanging experience and knowledge between Dutch and Namibian nationals. '*Namibia Contact*' co-operates with the Namibian - Dutch municipal partnerships and maintains also a

close relationship with the Dutch Honorary Consul in Windhoek and the Namibian Embassy in Brussels, Belgium.

What has Namibia Contact done in the past years ?

During the past years, '*Namibia Contact*' stimulated an educational program about Namibia in Dutch schools, it helped expatriates and students to find their way in Namibia, organised 'home lectures' (for example on HIV/AIDS) and held two important seminars which attracted publicity both in Namibia and the Netherlands. In 2002, a day about local government and tourism was organised in the '*Wereld Museum*' in Rotterdam. The Mayor of Rotterdam Mr Ivo Opstelten together with one of the former mayors of Windhoek, Mrs Vivienne Graig-McLaren discussed the issue of "diversity in local government". Furthermore, there were lectures about wildlife and tourism and the development thereof, art and photography expositions, Namibian crafts being sold, a children's program and a life-performance by Namibian singer Jackson Kaujeua. The Ambassador of Namibia in the Benelux, Dr Zedekia Ngavirue, was the guest of honour of the day. This day was an enormous success and was visited by around 800 people.

In 2004, a seminar on the land reform in Namibia was organised in the municipality of Boxtel with three lectures, one of which held by Dr Chris Brown, director of the Namibia Nature Foundation and Member of the Technical Team of Ministry of Lands and Settlement. After the lectures participants split up into three groups to further discuss the issue of land reform in depth. Additionally an art

exposition was organised and a percussion workshop, in which Mrs Sophia Nangombe, at the time Councillor at the Namibian Embassy in Brussels proved to be a talented player.

Website and book

Namibia Contact has a representative in the editorial committee for this website and distributes the book "*Namibia and The Netherlands, 350 Years of Relations*". If you are interested to download or buy this book press here (***link to Namibia and the Netherlands***)

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