

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations, Namibia

I EMIGRATED to Canda from what used to be South West Africa in 1975, but have always referred to today's Namibia as 'home'.

My perspective of the development of my mother country has naturally been different from yours. What is common to our views, I hope, is the realisation that you have turned a no-name 'where's that?' so-called protectorate, a territory without international status, into a full-fledged country. That, my compatriots, is cause for pride and celebration. Even more impressive is the democratisation of the political process and the transition to a free society without massive bloodshed, as has been the case in so many other developing countries worldwide. I salute and congratulate you, for many thousands of people in the outside world didn't think you could do it. For years, newspaper and TV reports worldwide forecast pessimistic outcomes for the future of Namibia, while you calmly went about the business of accepting each other, no matter what your differences.

Certainly, broad-based democracy and fundamental changes to society are often messy, confusing, acrimonious and never easy. The net

result though, is a cultural exchange of ideas, a freeing-up of talent and potential so critically important for tackling the massive local and global problems facing us as individuals and as a species. You have established your credibility in the international arena, and can rightly make enormous contributions in the form of advice and assistance to any other community or nation seeking ways to integrate vastly different peoples and cultures. Please let your expertise be shared. The world needs ambassadors of peace and acceptance now more than ever before. Export your talents to every corner of the world, for your experiences of endurance, compassion, empathy and ability to cope with massive and rapid change, individually and as a nation, are extremely valuable.

When I was a high school student in Windhoek, one of my teachers decided to classify us. He would walk up and down the aisles, and point out future university students, and non-university students. I was chosen as a prime example of unsuitable higher education material. For years that judgement haunted me, but the opportunity, coupled with a desire to prove my teacher wrong, led to my successful completion of two under-

graduate degrees. Perhaps most of us in Namibia share the same desire to prove the naysayers wrong. Don't let anybody or anything prevent you from becoming the person and nation to which you aspire. If I can offer any well-worn advice to the younger generation, it is this: God did not give you the ability to dream,

without also giving you the ability to realise your dreams. The challenges facing us will not be solved unless we also realise that education doesn't stop with a high school, technical or college diploma. Education has no 'destination'. The successful citizen is a person who understands that learning; the desire to probe and ask questions, is a lifelong endeavour. A piece of parchment proclaiming proficiency in a certain discipline is simply a stepping stone in understanding.

Fellow Namibians, you have so much to offer. Whether you contribute to the social, economic or spiritual well-being of your family, community, country, or beyond the borders of Namibia, I implore you to make an effort. Don't ever underestimate the power you have to change things for the better. Nobody is going to be able to help you in your quest to improve your lot in life, unless you take an active role your-

self. And if, like me, you decide to emigrate, you will soon realise that no matter where or for how long you go away, Namibia will never leave you. After an absence of 17 years, I've returned 'home', and want you to know that in the eyes of this expatriate at least, you should ALL be extremely proud of your accomplishments. May you continue to achieve your dreams. Congratulations Namibia.

BRYAN HOWARD
WINDHOEK



THE NATIONAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE

has an attractive vacancy for CLERK OF WORKS / VALUATOR

The incumbent will be required to do valuations and cost estimates, supervise and/or inspect housing projects during construction, prepare payment certificates and handle technical correspondence with homeowners.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of Standard 10, with either a trade diploma and about 3 years experience; or a NTC 4 diploma and about 5 years' experience in the construction field, experience which should include building control, surveying, being the site agent, etc.

For more information, contact Mr J Lehnert at tel (061) 37224.

We offer a negotiable salary, pension fund, subsidised medical aid, thirteenth cheque, housing allowances and generous leave.

Application forms are obtainable from our offices in Omuramba Road, Eros. Completed application forms should be returned to the above-mentioned office or may be posted to: The Personnel Manager, PO Box 20192, WINDHOEK.

CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (CD)

is looking for 2 Development Programme Manager, Community Development Programme in Namibia. CD is a N.G.O. with a long term commitment to Namibia.

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

DUTIES:

1. to provide overall coordination function for the Water, Credit and Small Business Credit programmes.
2. to maintain administrative control of the credit programme and management of loan projects.
3. to maintain contact with Project Partners, monitor project progress and evaluate project performance.
4. to prepare monthly reports and organise credit committee meetings.
5. to manage a staff of 7 Community Project Officers, based in various parts of Namibia.
6. to act as training coordinator for the credit programme, including overseas.
7. must be prepared to travel throughout Namibia as well as overseas.
8. to make public presentations explaining the CD Development Programme and to participate in NGO conferences as appropriate.
9. to appraise new community development project proposals and new partners.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be Namibian Citizen and in possession of a current passport. Must have 4 years experience in Community development and project management with related qualifications. Have good command of the English language as well as Afrikaans and any one of the local Namibian Languages. Must have Current Driving Licence. Good communication skills essential. Must be familiar with Wordperfect, Supercalc 5, and dBase. Must simulate other software packages.

SALARY:

Negotiable but will commensurate with experience and position. Will enjoy the benefit of Medical Aid, Pension Fund, etc.