



**Media Release:**

## **Photo Exhibition in Basel and Geneva on 25 Years of Namibian Independence**

**With "Namibia 25," the Namibian Embassy in Geneva and Basler Afrika Bibliographien (BAB) are celebrating a special anniversary: on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1990, Namibia was one of the last countries in Africa to gain independence from colonial rule. In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, there will be two complimentary photo exhibitions on the self-documentation of Namibian society. One will be shown at the Namibian Embassy in Geneva starting the 18<sup>th</sup> of March and the other at the BAB in Basel starting the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.**

The project to commemorate Namibian Independence began in May one year ago, as the Namibian Ambassador, Sabine Böhlke-Möller, commenced the film series: *Namibia in Motion* in Basel. "The Basler Afrika Bibliographien is an extremely important source of information for Namibia and provides an excellent platform for academic and cultural events" (Böhlke-Möller).

The opportunity for a joint presentation offered itself through the photo exhibition: *Stagings Made in NAMIBIA*. Created by Berlinese curator Evelyn Annuss, the exhibition is now available for the first time in Switzerland. It presents images of the realities of everyday life in Namibia. In the years 2007 and 2008, Namibians from various professional and ethnic groups were randomly selected to use cameras and capture their everyday life and its actors. Out of several thousand shots, 250 pictures were selected.

In 2009, *Stagings* was exhibited in Berlin, sponsored by the Capital Cultural Fund, while in Windhoek, the exhibition acquired assistance from Aktion Afrika.

This year, the presentation of *Stagings* in Switzerland occurs simultaneously at two complimentary locations. In Geneva, large formatted pictures will be displayed at the United Nations building, while Basel will display smaller exhibits within the rooms of the BAB.

### **Namibia 25**

In addition to the opening of the exhibition in Basel, the Basler Afrika Bibliographien will host a small series of events to celebrate the anniversary. Titled *Namibia 25*, the events are held between the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. In addition to the opening of the photo exhibition *Namibia 25* will include a book vernissage and the portrait of a Namibian filmmaker with film presentations:

In November of 2014, the BAB Publishing House issued the German language edition of the “History of Namibia,” by Marion Wallace. Since its original publishing in English, it has been hailed as a defining work. During the book vernissage, the author herself will be speaking on the challenges of composing a national history.

Furthermore, the young Namibian film maker, Oshosheni Hiveluah, will be there as a part of *Namibia 25*. She will get introduced in a film talk between screenings of her short films: *100 Bucks*, *Cries at Night* and *Tjitji the Himba Girl*.

### **Programme:**

We 18.3.2015 18:00 Geneva: Exhibition Opening “Stagings Made in NAMIBIA” Geneva,  
United Nations Office, Building E, Gate 40  
Open from March 18 to 27, 2015, Mo-Fr from 08.00 am to 06.00 pm

#### *Namibia 25*

Th 19.3.2015 06:30 pm, Basel: Book Vernissage “Geschichte Namibias” (de.) by Marion Wallace; Presentations from the author and BAB’s Head of Archives; aperitif follows

Fr 20.3.2015 06:30 pm, Basel: Exhibition Opening “Stagings Made in NAMIBIA” Basel;  
aperitif riche follows  
Open from March 20 to 27, 2015, Tu-Fr from 02:00 pm to 06:00 pm, Sa 11:00 am to 06:00 pm, closed Su and Mo

Sa 21.3.2015 05:00 pm, Basel: Portrait of the Namibian film maker Oshosheni Hiveluah,  
author interview and three short films; aperitif follows

All events of *Namibia 25* in Basel will be held on the premises of the BAB, Klosterberg 23, 4051 Basel. Admission is free. For more information, visit the website at:

[www.baslerafrika.ch](http://www.baslerafrika.ch)

**The Basler Afrika Bibliographien**

Founded in 1971, Basler Afrika Bibliographien at Klosterberg 23 is a documentation center for southern Africa. Their holdings on Namibia are internationally recognized as the World's most extensive collection outside of Namibia. The library and the archives of the BAB that integrate audio, video, and photo documents in their classical collection, are open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 05:00 pm. For more events and information, visit our website at:

<http://www.baslerafrika.ch>

**The Namibian Embassy in Switzerland**

The permanent Mission of Namibia in Switzerland is located in Geneva. In 2014, the Mission was awarded the status of Embassy, associated with the United Nations Headquarters. In relation to the international community, it handles Namibian matters in a Swiss context. Opening times are Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00. For more information, visit their website at:

<http://www.missionofnamibia.ch/>

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Enclosure:  
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