The Old Location has maintained an existence in the memories of those who once lived there. For years, it was a place of oppression and pain. It was a place where people were forced to leave their homes and live in a place that was not their own. It was a place where people were not allowed to roam freely. It was a place where people were not allowed to hold meetings or gather in groups. It was a place where people were not allowed to have any contact with the outside world.

However, the forced removal of inhabitants of Windhoek's Old Location to the township Katutura provided an organised mass protest culminating in a massacre on 10 December 1959. This protest marked the beginning of the liberation struggle of the Namibian people against the South African occupation.

The Old Location became a synonym for African unity in the face of the divisions imposed by apartheid. But little is publicly known of daily life there. However, most of the published life histories of Namibians politically engaged at that time (most prominently John ya Otte’s ‘Battlesfront Namibia’, but also Sam Najoma’s ‘Where Others Wavered’) do not refer in any detail to the daily life and interaction in Windhoek’s old township. These biographies were mostly by those involved in contract labour and therefore not living there. Contract workers employed in Windhoek had their own compound at ‘Pokkedraad’, in the vicinity of today’s Northern suburb. Most of the residents not affiliated to the contract workers movement organised in the Omuhland People’s Organisation (OPO), but rather in the South West African National Union (Swanu) or the Herero Traditional Council, remains inadequately recognised.

T he Old Location has remained alive in the memories of those who once lived there. For more than half a century since the Old Location was shut down, one cannot reconstruct and present, from the outside, the full story of the place, its people, their interaction with each other and with the authorities. The assumed realities have so far occasionally in the ‘heroic narrative’ tradition been a romantic projection of the ‘good old days’, which somewhat ignores the harsh realities of the time. Forms of social life were positively contrasted with the newly constructed township outside Windhoek, which accordingly was called Katutura (‘a place where we do not stay’).

The significance of the former place of living, where poor material conditions contrasted with the social spirit and interaction, is captured by a remark of Zedekia Ngavirue (‘Dr Zed’ as he is called with respect these days). He was the first social worker employed there (and later sacked) in 1959/1960, a co-founder of Swansi and the co-founder and editor of the Social West News/Kitshoona Nanu. As the first local African newspaper, it was established soon after the shootings in December 1959 and was published during 1960.

Dr Zed then left for studies in Sweden and became engaged in exile politics. He observed in retrospect: “It was indeed when we owned little that we were prepared to make the greatest sacrifices.”

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Personal accounts on aspects of life in the Old Location remain important for ensuing generations. I welcome any contact from people who can share their memories or memories of their relatives with me for a popular social history of the Old Location which I am currently preparing for publication for a local audience: Henning Melber

Henning Melber

Biographical note: Henning Melber came to Namibia as a son of German immigrants in 1967 and witnessed the last ruins of what had been the Old Location. He was Director of the Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit from 1992 to 2000, Research Director of the Nordic Africa Institute (2000 to 2006) and Executive Director of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation (2006 to 2012), both in Uppsala/ Sweden, and remains affiliated as Senior Advisor to both institutions. He is Extraordinary Professor at the Department of Political Sciences/ University of Pretoria and the Centre for Africa Studies/University of the Free State in Bloemfontein.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Reporting to the Managing Director, the incumbent will implement and manage the Company’s Public Relations/Investor Relations, Social Investment and Communication Strategy in an effort to promote the public image of Ohorongo Cement. This position will also collaborate with others in the organisation to achieve brand consistency, coordination of messages and the highest standards of internal and external communication. The position is Windhoek based.

Responsibilities

• Manage creation, production, and dissemination of printed publications for information, development and administration purposes.
• Coordinate and drive internal communication initiatives.
• Write and distribute press releases.
• Pitch the local and national media to secure media placement.
• Networking and lobbying, establishing and maintaining corporate citizen relationship.
• Responsible for representing the company at all relevant Expo’s, Trade Fairs & Exhibits/ Shows.
• Responsible for Ohorongo Otavi Community Trust board meeting administration and communication.
• Coordination of international associated tasks and partners.

Requirements

• Five (5) years relevant experience with specific exposure to PR, Corporate Social Investment, Stakeholder Management Communication and Project Management in a leadership role.

SENIOR ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Reporting to the Financial Manager, the incumbent will be responsible for the entire creditors’ department, including reconciliation of accounts, financial overview/reports and payments on all Ohorongo Cement and associated companies. The position is Windhoek based.

Responsibilities

• Responsible for VAT run, including reconciliation of import VAT and NORMAL VAT account and submission of different VAT returns.
• Month-end commenting & compiling of Balance Sheet & Cash flow statement (controlling month-end).
• Release of payments.
• Responsible for proper maintenance of accounts.
• Monitor performance of staff, provide positive feedback and guide rectifying behavior as necessary.
• Preparation and submission of Bank of Namibia quarterly reports.
• Assisting Financial Manager with bank statements i.e. liaising with banks regarding foreign payments or suppliers and long-term lenders.

Requirements

• Three (3) years working experience with appropriate Financial Qualifications.
• Intermediate computer literacy (excel, windows and word).
• Accounting software packages experience, SAP will be an added advantage.
• Excellent time management and organizational skills.
• Attention to detail and high level accuracy.
• Fluency in English.

Remuneration

In return we offer competitive income depending on skills and attributes.

Deadline/Contact

If you meet the requirements, hand in your comprehensive CV by the latest 25 April 2016 to Ohorongo Cement (PTY) LTD, Plant Sartberg, Human Resources Department

E-Mail: recruitment@ohorongo-cement.com

Note: No faxed applications will be considered and only short-listed candidates would be contacted.

Women and previously disadvantaged people are encouraged to apply.

No documents will be returned to applicants.