



The Bridge Builder Newsletter

Agile leadership in crisis



CONTENT

- 3** CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD
- 4** CEO'S FOREWORD
- 5** ONE HOSTS TIP RECEPTION AND ACADEMIC SEMINAR
- 6** BREAKING THE STIGMA AGAINST INFERTILITY
- 7** EMPOWERING YOUTH TO SPEAK UP AGAINST STIGMATISATION
- 8** ONE ECONOMY FOUNDATION HOSTS HEALTH MEDIA TRAINING
- 9** AGILE LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS
- 10** FLON ACCEPTS SAFE HANDS CHALLENGE
- 11** CARING FOR THE CARE-GIVERS
- 12** SHACK DWELLERS RECEIVE COVID-19 DONATION
- 13** ONE DONATES HOSPITAL BEDS FOR COVID-19 ISOLATION UNITS
- 14** MICRO GRASSROOTS ENTERPRISE PIVOT TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY DURING COVID-19
- 15** EMERGING VOICES - #BEFREE AMBASSADORS
- 16** #BEFREE EXPLORES THE ROLE OF SPORT IN IMPROVING SOCIAL OUTCOMES
- 17** MEET THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS
- 20** THE RESILIENCE OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS
- 21** #BEFREE DIGITAL FRONTRUNNERS DIALOGUE
- 22** INTRODUCING THE NEW CORPORATE IDENTITY
- 23** FUNDRAISER AND PLEDGE EVENINGS
- 24** 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



Greetings,

The year 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone and is evident from the inequalities revealed in our societies, balance sheets, education, and socio-economic challenges, and young people's mental health, which have all been disrupted by Covid-19. It is for that reason; our programmes have focused on uplifting our beneficiaries' mental health and creating platforms where young people can share their lived experiences and challenges during the pandemic. There have been mixed messages to young people that the pandemic doesn't affect them as much. After all, they are healthier; they have fewer comorbidities than others and have lower mortality rates. The reality is that young people are affected by the indirect consequences of Covid-19, whether around those who are pulling out of school and never returning, teenage pregnancies, exposure to harm and mental health challenges.

We gained significant insights during the last five years, mainly through our #BeFree Movement, #BreakFree from violence campaign and One Nation Fund. To date, we have engaged over 120,000 young people from 14 regions, SADC, the United States of America, and Europe through the facilitation of frank, non-judgemental dialogues and thematic conversations. These engagements informed the #BeFree Key Learnings Report which revealed a pressing need for an integrated protection system with adequate capacity and resources to build the resilience of young people. In response to needs articulated by young people, I am thrilled to inform you that we will translate the key learnings into a physical building thus institutionalising the #BeFree Movement. A one-stop youth centre of excellence that will provide a continuum of holistic services, including adolescent friendly health services, psychosocial support, innovation and skills development and after-school programmes, to mention but a few. It is my hope that we will create an enabling environment where youth can realise their full potential, by providing access to services and opportunities to change the trajectory of their lives.

Even as we recognise, with pride, the value and impact of our work we are cognisant that these accomplishments would not be possible without collaboration and smart partnerships particularly with inter-ministerial organisations on the ground.

There is also a need to strengthen targeted response particularly to gender-based violence as a twinning pandemic to COVID-19. Hopefully, we will use this opportunity to press the reset button to ensure that we are fully equipped to transcend the Covid-19 pandemic and ready us for similar crises in the future. Today's multiple predicaments are sobering on many fronts - I look forward to distilling lessons learnt and building on good practices through Project #BeFree.

As we build momentum for the year ahead, I am grateful to our partners, board of directors, beneficiaries, volunteers, service providers, and individuals who despite the challenges presented, continued to support the work we do.

The year 2020 has been gruelling, but it has also been a year of introspection. As we reimagine building back, I implore us to reflect and apply some lessons you learned particularly be safe, be kind and be informed. We trust that the experiences from the past year have reaffirmed what is most important which is to show compassion, be frugal and practice self-care.

Warm regards,

FLON



Dear esteemed reader,

I am excited that you have your hands on this publication! Through the Bridge Builder, we endeavour to provide periodic updates to our stakeholders, partners, donors and supporters on the work and impact of the One Economy Foundation "ONE".

In this edition, we highlight our milestones from 2020 with emphasis on the numerous COVID-19 relief interventions. With the invaluable support of our partners, we build bridges of opportunity and empowerment as captured in this newsletter. Last year we also saw exceptional talent joining ONE and you will get to know them a tad-bit better in this read!

This year we are particularly excited to kick off with a ground-breaking project which will bring to life the key learning's from the #BeFree Movement. A considerable degree of our focus will be towards addressing the bottlenecks which inhibit young people from reaching their full potential.

This will be achieved through establishing an integrated, protection system with adequate capacity and resources to prevent harm and respond to the needs of young people in a coordinated manner. We intend to play a material role in strengthening and scaling services available to adolescents. This is in addition to ensuring that youth are empowered and use their voice to co-create solutions that are reflective of their context.

In response to the ever-changing challenges facing our country, we have revised our strategic objectives and programmes to respond to the unmet, felt and real needs of our beneficiaries. With laser focus and clarity of purpose we look forward to improving social outcomes and your support is instrumental in making this possible.

Happy reading!

Sem Mandela

PLAYGROUND FOR THE MAVERICKS, CATALYSTS & DISRUPTORS

Our learners' well-rounded performance in both their academic and social progression has informed our learnings that financial support alone is not sufficient. Our programme has evidence that without the combination of a safe and nurturing environment, academic performance monitoring, psychosocial and parental support, mentorship, character development, dignity (basic living allowance), and secure transport, children are at risk of falling through the cracks.

Young people must be given the same opportunities to ensure we don't lose talent. At One Economy Foundation, we believe that targeted intervention is required as there are too few young people making it through the secondary level and qualifying for the tertiary level. Due to the high attrition rate in Namibia, there are stark disparities in the investment in Namibia's education system, where the majority of the funding is tiered to tertiary education. Hence, we took the initiative to fund secondary learners to address the concerns that come with education and ensure we build a bridge of opportunity that facilitates youth access to quality and tertiary education to elevate their participation in the first economy.



Ewan Orlam and Lizzle Tauxas



FLON and Steven Bernardus Harageib (Head of Programmes) with TIP fellows

Academic Seminar

To reduce the anxieties that came with the new secondary school curriculum's pronouncement, we hosted a seminar to give young people access to information and inform them of what the future holds. The theme of the seminar was Playground for the Mavericks, Catalysts, and Disruptors. Fellows created a platform for experts to share their views with the youth.

The grade 11 TIP fellows and additional learners from Havana Secondary School, Mount View Secondary School, attended the session to get insight from funders on what makes a competitive applicant and the available post-secondary school funding options. Experts from tertiary institutions, notably the University of Namibia, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), and the International University of Management, shared the curriculum's implications and the critical success factors learners need to transition from high school to tertiary.

Lizzle Tauxas, a TIP fellow alongside Ewan Orlam, a Hage Geingob Endowment Fund beneficiary, led the proceedings. Jason Kooitjie, a TIP fellow, entertained the guests with a rendition of the song entitled "You Say" by Lauren Diagle. Jason is a recipient of several academic and cultural awards.



FLTR - Donatella Nel, Julia Wilhelm, Jason Kooitjie and Xhaka Xhaeku participating in the story creation exercise.



Josy Nghipandua (UNAM student recruitment and operations officer) engages with TIP fellows.

BREAKING THE STIGMA AGAINST INFERTILITY



FLTR - FLON (Ambassador: Merck More than a Mother) and Senator Dr. Rasha Kelej (CEO Merck Foundation)

In partnership with the Merck Foundation, the One Economy Foundation launched the “Merck More Than a Mother” campaign to build equitable healthcare capacity, empower, and break the infertility stigmas faced by infertile men, women, couples, and their families by providing information, education, and change of mindsets. It’s all about giving every woman the respect and the help she deserves to live a fulfilling life, with or without a child.

There is overwhelming recognition that collective effort is needed in the approach to address the stigma against infertility. Madame Monica Geingos, the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia and Ambassador of the Merck More than a Mother, in her keynote address, said: “We need to emphasise womanhood more than motherhood. Women are not just mothers; they are productive members of society and should be respected. Everyone deserves respect and love, and should never be overlooked or, worse, abused - even if they are childless.” FLON also called for cooperation between private and public health practitioners to ease the financial burden on couples and families, which adds to the emotional stress.

120 Policy Makers, Civil Society Organisations, Merck Foundation Alumni, Health Care Professionals, Merck Heroines, Academia, and the Media fraternity attended the launch. The campaign also highlighted the need for effective infertility care as the current provisions of services are not affordable and places a financial burden on those seeking treatment. It is critical to initiate a cultural shift to de-stigmatise infertility on all levels.

Following the launch of the ‘Merck More Than a Mother’ campaign, we opened a WhatsApp group to create a platform where both male and female can engage, share experiences and educate each other on infertility related issues. The group also enables the participants to provide moral support and discuss ways to create awareness on infertility to curb the stigma and discrimination within our society. As a result of the impact the campaign has had on the lives of the participants who attended the ‘Merck Heroes and Heroines’ meeting, we are excited to announce that One Economy, in partnership with Merck Foundation, will be hosting the Women Infertility Conference next year March.



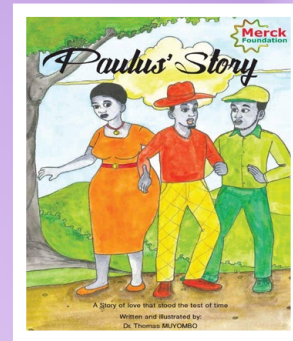
Senator Dr. Rasha Kelej (CEO Merck)

“ Having a child requires a family bond, as every woman is more than a mother and every man is more than a father. - FLON ”

EMPOWERING YOUTH TO SPEAK UP AGAINST STIGMATISATION



FLON and Senator Dr Rasha Kelej signing Paulus' storybook for learners during the book launch.



Launch of Paulus' Story

Young people and their voices remain central in informing our programming and advocacy at the One Economy Foundation. Therefore, ONE partnered with Merck Foundation and published a storybook to educate learners about infertility and the surrounding stigma. The launch placed a particular focus on the importance of enabling the youth to become advocates of change in the fight against infertility and teach them to respect and value all people regardless of being parents.

More than 200 young people were engaged on issues such as substance abuse, inappropriate use of contraceptives, untreated infections and rape as factors that could lead to infertility. The speakers also engaged with young people to understand their perspectives on infertility and their thoughts on how we can end stigma in our society. At the book launch, Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation, emphasised youth's role as future leaders and the engineers of change.

Honourable Martin Andjaba, the then Acting Minister of Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture), commended FLON's commitment to young people's issues. "We need to create a conducive environment for young people to grow, and schools should be a place for learners to learn skills to be responsible citizens," he added.

In her remarks, FLON outlined the infertility risk factors which may impact young people's ability to have children later. She further urged the learners not to be judgemental when it comes to infertility related issues.

This endeavour reaffirms the importance of empowering the youth to shape and co-create a non-judgemental and supportive society that is free from infertility related stigma.



Rudolf Matengu (Principal Augustinium Secondary School), FLON and Senator Dr. Rasha Kelej with learners

HEALTH TRAINING FOR MEDIA PRACTITIONERS

The media remains a critical partner in our work, and ONE was delighted to host the first “Merck Health Media Training”. The training focused on interpreting the vital role that the media plays in educating the public about the challenges and opportunities concerning women and men’s infertility in the Namibian context.

Through the training, Merck Foundation brought together 100 media practitioners from Television, Radio, Print, and Online Media as well as journalism students. The key emphasis was on the importance and the role that young people, together with the media, can play in dispelling the stigma against infertility in our Namibian communities.

The Media Ombudsman, Mr. John Nakuta, spoke on the importance of adhering to media ethics and codes of conduct, saying “media practitioners ought to be thoroughly informed on the matters they report on, including infertility.” He commended the media and its role in changing the dangerous narratives that perpetuate stigma against women. Furthermore, Ms. Ute Sinkala, a clinical psychologist, alluded to the mental health impacts of infertility and stigma as a source of anxiety and depression. She urged couples to seek help and support. The media and the general public were encouraged to be sensitive and empathetic to the plight of women, men, and couples battling with infertility.





AGILE LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS

The spread of COVID-19 tremendously exacerbated the already existing fault lines. Research shows that individuals, particularly those living in the most vulnerable communities, have suffered loss of income or health care due to the prevention measures, i.e., quarantine and lockdown, potentially on a sweeping scale. While some were worried about boredom during the national lockdown, and others are worried about where their next meal will come from.

It has been encouraging to see Namibians from all walks of life mobilising to assist people vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic. Many organisations and individuals across the country have played a leading role in mitigating the shortage of basic necessities to vulnerable groups. This type of civic responsibility is what we need to ensure Namibia becomes a more compassionate, equitable, and inclusive society.

As we believe in the importance of citizenry doing their part in times of calamity, we are proud to have initial strategic support to CO-Feed Namibia. This community driven volunteer programme is supported and guided by key players in the private sector to create an effective, safe, transparent, and targeted distribution of essential items for those most impacted by the Covid-19 lockdown.

In addition to providing strategic support to organizations, we also facilitated access to psychosocial and material support to individuals in quarantine and survivors of abuse. The primary focus of our COVID-19 related efforts is on adolescents and young adults as they navigate the uncertainties presented by this crisis. We are engaging and empowering young people through our interactive dialogues to provide them with mass information on how to deal with the pandemic's varied psychosocial and economic challenges.

- Hilma Petrus (Communications Officer, One Economy Foundation)

FLON ACCEPTS SAFE HANDS CHALLENGE

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FLON accepted the World Health Organisation (WHO) Safe Hands Challenge, as challenged by the First Lady of Rwanda, First Lady of Niger, and the First Lady of Botswana. As a reminder to be safe, be informed, and to be kind, particularly to our society's most vulnerable members.

In collaboration with young people, living in informal settlements FLON demonstrated the importance of how to wash hands using innovative DIY hand washing mechanisms safely to reflect the safe reality of those living in highly populated, low-income areas with limited access to water and sanitation. Community Activist Beata ileka and her team sourced and built the handwashing stations with the material they use every day. We met them halfway by providing handwashing soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant, and cleaning products for the communal toilets. We also donated food hampers and airtime for the forty families who are making use of the handwashing stations.



FLON demonstrating how to properly wash ones hands.



Families were provided with care packages from One Economy Foundation



FLTR - Fenn Paulus, FLON and Beata ileka (Community Activist) during a COVID-19 Q&A session

CARING FOR THE CARE-GIVERS

It's easy to overlook the work that goes on behind the scenes in managing and mitigating a pandemic, and forgetting about those who work under pressure risking their lives to help combat the impact. Our thoughts and prayers remain with essential service providers and their families by ensuring those who have been exposed to the virus are tested, treated, and remain informed during these unprecedented times.

To show our support and continuous commitment, we delivered lunch, airtime, and drinks to the police officers and social workers stationed at the GBV Investigation Unit as well as the call centre operators who are managing the 24-hour COVID-19 Namibia toll-free (0800100100) emergency number.

We also visited and thanked the lab technicians at the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP) who are processing COVID-19 tests; we were impressed that the team operates on a 24-hour shift. We also provided care packs to the doctors and nurses at the Robert Mugabe Clinic who are working 12-hour shifts focused on testing patients with symptoms.



FLON thanking the medical staff at Robert Mugabe Clinic.



FLON delivers lunch to the GBVI Unit Staff.



FLON hands over lunch to essential service providers.

SHACK DWELLERS FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA RECEIVES COVID DONATION



FLTR - FLON (Shack Dwellers Federation Patron), Mr Vetumbuavi Mungunda (Standard Bank CEO), Nicole Maske (Elso Holdings), Edith Mbanga (National Facilitator: Shack Dwellers Federation)

On 27 March 2020, Standard Bank handed over Covid-19 donations to the Shack Dwellers Federation at their Head Office. As the Patron of Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, the First Lady received the donations on behalf of the Federation. FLON was pleased with the pro-active manner in which Standard Bank Namibia mobilized eight water tanks, which they will regularly fill for people living in informal settlements. They also roped in Elso Holdings, a Namibian manufacturer of cleaning materials, so that they could provide both water and cleaning materials.

At the event FLON thanked Standard Bank for their continuous support to the Shack Dwellers Federation and their commitment to the provision of decent shelter for all Namibians.



FLON (Shack Dwellers Patron) and Mr Vetumbuavi Mugunda (CEO: Standard Bank)

ONE DONATES HOSPITAL BEDS FOR COVID-19 ISOLATION UNITS

The One Economy Foundation recently partnered with Earth Logistics to donate nine hospital beds valued at N\$315,000, to the Windhoek Central Hospital Isolation Unit and the Onandjokwe Hospital. Honourable Esther Muinjangu, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, received the donation on behalf of the Health Ministry.



Dr Kanisia Nakangombe (Chief Medical Officer, Windhoek Central Hospital), Mr. Sam David (Earth Logistics), Dr. Farid Zam (Acting Chief Medical Superintendent, Windhoek Central Hospital), Hon. Esther Muinjangu (Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services), Uajorokisa Akwenye (CEO: One Economy Foundation), Thomas Mbandeka (Earth Logistics)



ONF Beneficiary Monika Mateus



ONF Beneficiary Inge Boye

The ONE Nation Fund Microfinance and Entrepreneurial Programme has to date, empowered 46 grassroots entrepreneurs with access to affordable capital and capacity building through training and skills development. With the onset of Covid-19 and the subsequent disruptions to the local economy, grassroots businesses have been more susceptible to structural challenges.

In response to Covid-19, the One Economy Foundation has rapidly created opportunities and repurposed resources to strengthen our entrepreneurs to ensure that they emerge from the crisis and are well equipped to rebuild their futures. Additionally, to minimise the negative impact of Covid-19, our Fund offered its beneficiaries a three-month relief period as of 01 April 2020.

We have seen that whether by necessity or resourcefulness, grassroots businesses have managed to adapt in the wake of COVID-19. These businesses showed great strength and innovation by diversifying their businesses to ensure continuity. For example, OV Eтуhole, a day care in the informal sector, threatened by a loss of income due to the closure of schools, opened an informal eatery during the lockdown to ensure income. L.E Games also changed its business model to a rent-a-game model during the lockdown. Despite being faced by a myriad of challenges, we were humbled by our entrepreneurs who helped their communities cope with the virus by installing home-made washing/sanitising stations in their immediate informal settlements; and teaching young children in the area the importance of hand-washing.

In partnership with Start-Up Namibia GIZ, we provided our entrepreneurs with an opportunity to produce 2000 face masks to assist them in creating visibility for the products and services. Opportunities such as these provide our entrepreneurs with a source of income and create a platform for brand exposure and network linkages.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, we will continue to play our role in ensuring a more equitable society through entrepreneurship.



BERTHA TOBIAS

The #BeFree Ambassador

“We can sit in our corners mute forever while our sisters and ourselves are distorted and destroyed, while our earth is poisoned; we can sit in our safe corners mute as bottles, and we will still be no less afraid.”

The Bridge Builder caught up with Bertha Tobias, the #BeFree Ambassador. The 19-year-old professional speaker is currently pursuing a Bachelors in International Relations undergraduate at the Claremont McKenna College in California, USA. In this interview, Bertha shares her experience and the impact that the #BeFree Movement has had on her life.

As a #BeFree Ambassador, Bertha is responsible for providing youth-centred perspectives to facilitate the development of effective engagement strategies, moderating high-pressure and high-level discussions, and directly and indirectly educating young people on pressing socio-political issues while. Her role also includes encouraging frank, respectful dialogue in a personal as well as professional capacity, participating in the organisation of public sensitisation on issues regarding the sexual and reproductive health rights of young people in Namibia and beyond. The Ambassador supports #BeFree activities, providing analysis of strategic advice to management on issues facing youth in Namibia and representing #BeFree at various meetings and public engagements.

When did you join the One Economy Foundation?

I joined One Economy Foundation primarily through its flagship project - #BeFree. My journey started at the launch of the #Befree movement in 2016 when I was randomly and spontaneously asked by one of the #BeFree staff to give the vote of thanks at the end of the launch. After the launch, I remember going home and being completely awestruck by how I felt like my humanity as a youth had been actively recognised by this movement; primarily because a great deal of care was taken at ensuring that we, as the youth, felt comfortable. For example, by hosting the launch in a club.

After the launch, the movement continued to reach out to me, requesting pieces of contextual poetry or general engagement at the events that followed. With every #BeFree event that I attended, as I witnessed first-hand the impact that was being made, I knew that it was a series of efforts that I would dedicate my heart and efforts to in a heartbeat - if given the chance. As such, I didn't hesitate when Dr. Veronica Theron (Technical Advisor to FLON) and a former #BeFree staff member called me one afternoon and asked me to be #BeFree ambassador. My work with the movement has been a transformational experience ever since then.

What impact has the movement had on your life, career, personal life, and why?

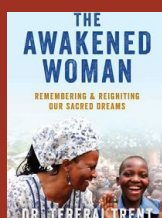
It has taught me about doing my part, no matter how small it may seem, to contribute to the social improvement of Namibia. It has developed in me a powerful mix of empathy, compassion, and disdain for social inequality. Through all the public engagement opportunities afforded to me by my work with the movement, such as television and radio interviews, hosting youth dialogues or moderating discussion panels, I was forced to confront a version of myself that is more confident, daring and aware of the power, value, and importance of her voice. This new version was accompanied by an increased readiness to accept the national and international opportunities that came my way as a result of my character development through the movement.

How have you contributed to the success of the #BeFree movement?

My contributions are mainly characterised by writing pieces concerned with issues addressed by the movement, delivering speeches at #BeFree events, moderating panel discussions, and engaging directly with young people as well as other relevant and/or key stakeholders.

Favourite book?

The Awakened Woman
by Dr Terera Trent



#BEFREE EXPLORES THE ROLE OF SPORT IN IMPROVING SOCIAL OUTCOMES

BRIDGE BUILDER

#BeFreeBALLING x BAS

We were privileged to host #BeFreeBalling, with 30 Basketball Artists School (BAS) beneficiaries and athletic youth from the surrounding community. The event was held under the theme “Sports to Improve Social Outcomes” at BAS at the Katutura Multipurpose Centre. BAS is an after-school programme for children and youth with a focus on education, life skills and basketball.

In giving her life testimony titled “Basketball my Lifeline”, Petrina Aaron a BAS participant, said that basketball gave her unconditional acceptance. Petrina shared how she got her life back through sport which affirmed her identity and values. She embraced the spirit of giving back by mentoring other youth. “Changing the lives of youth in Katutura is not only about transforming the community. It is also about transforming mindsets,” said Petrina.

Loide Hanyanya, a netball player for the Namibia National Team and a civil engineering student at NUST, also gave her life testimony titled my life on and off the court. She highlighted that being active in sports has benefits for both her physical and mental health. Being in a team also gives her a sense of belonging and family.

The #BeFree Movement upheld the principle of youth-centredness by inviting Hozala dance group and DJ Elmau from BAS to match the energetic potential of the youth through lively entertainment. During the interactive dialogue, moderated by high schooler Moses Filippus, Honourable Emma Kantema-Goamas highlighted that the Ministry of Sports, Youth and National Service has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Namibia Sports Commission (NSC). This MOU serves as a funding vehicle for youth opting to pursue sporting careers. She implored the youth to apply through NSC for NSFAP assistance as the initiative is already active.

Conversations in the interactive dialogue illuminated that sport is laced with extreme competition and criticism. A call for wider activism for a culture shift towards togetherness and positive sportsmanship was made by Moses Filippus and echoed by the other panelists, namely: Jacobina Uushona, Javier Nghishilenapo, and Tiffany Khoeses.

FLON contributed to the discussion by warned youth about the impact of substance abuse in and out of sports. She alluded to the insecurities experienced by athletes as leading to illegal acts such as doping. The panelists thus, implored the youth to strive for success through hard work instead of finding short-term and regrettable relief through substances.

Although sports facilitate human relationships, FLON alerted that there may be a risk that these relationships may become sexualised, especially when power imbalances exist. A plea was made for young people to be educated about the definitions of a sexual act in the Combatting of Rape Act, 2000 (Number 8 of 2000) and the understanding of consent.

In explaining the criminality of sexual abuse, FLON drew correlations between the broken windows theory and the vulnerability in sexual abuse survivors. She shared that perpetrators build trust relationships with their victims in order to exploit their troubled pasts. This may increase the chances of abuse in imbalanced relationships in the sporting fraternity.

FLON further stated that the hypersexualised behaviour in children be scrutinized by caregivers as it may indicate abuse. This may also extend to the sexually promiscuous behaviour exhibited by some young people. It is therefore important to facilitate frank and non-judgmental conversations about issues that affect the youth as #BeFree has done over the years.

We remain responsive and steadfast in facilitating and having non-judgmental interactive discussions where the focus is not only on what the young people need to hear but also about what they have to say. Hence, we followed up with a second engagement where had a discussion with young people on the anxieties that come with COVID over a braai. Though being a challenging period, it was evident that quarantine has enabled to explore innovative ways to stay connected with their loved ones and redirect energy towards what matters.



FLTR - Moses Filippus, FLON, Honourable Emma Kantema-Goamas, Jacobina Uushona, Javier Nghishilenapo



Honourable Emma Kantema-Goamas
(Deputy Minister of Youth and National Service)

SEM MANDELAUUTONI APPOINTED AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome



Sem Mandela Utoni (CEO, One Economy Foundation)

Magic happens when strong ideas intersect with strong implementers. Our renewed focus on youth development has been significantly bolstered by the addition of Sem Mandela Utoni as our new Chief Executive Officer, effective 01 July 2020. Sem is the personification of our work in youth development as he lives our values of inclusive, afro-centric and impact-driven solutions. Sem co-authored a youth empowerment book called “The Extraordinary Aftermath” where he detailed his lived experiences of overcoming adversity and structural barriers.

At 24 years old, Sem founded the African Pathfinder Leaders Initiative (APLI), which recently earned him the Diana Award for his efforts in youth development. APLI has developed into a formidable, youth-led organization, which capacitates young people with entrepreneurship skills, conceptualization and implementation of community development projects and building resilient mindsets. He served as a Special Assistant to the Chairperson’s Advisor on Regional Integration at the African Union Commission (AUC) in Ethiopia, and worked as the National Development Advisor (United Nations) at the National Planning Commission. He also served as a Senior Social Responsibility Consultant at Old Mutual Namibia, which deepened his understanding of developing a sustainable social investment model. Sem brings a diverse skill set, an intimate understanding of youth and community development and a stellar work ethic.

Sem holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Regional and Rural Development from the Namibia University of Science and Technology and a Master’s Degree in Regional Development and Environmental Economics (Summa Cum Laude) from Kaposvar University, Hungary.

PEFIMBO SHIPUNDA JOINS TEAM AS THE SENIOR SOCIAL WORKER

Welcome



Pefimbo Shipunda (Senior Social Worker, One Economy Foundation)

We are excited to have our team of mental health experts joined by someone who is equally passionate about addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Pefimbo will journey with survivors and their families on the path to healing, wholeness and fortitude.

Pefimbo is excited to play an essential role in contributing towards dismantling structures and social dynamics that continue to perpetuate the cycle of violence in Namibia. “This is a fantastic opportunity for me to create positive change and provide support to those whose lives are affected by SGBV,” said the Senior Social Worker. Since joining the team, Pefimbo has spent considerable amount of time in the Windhoek Magistrate and High Court providing assisted referrals to SGBV survivors and families as well as testifying on their behalf.

Prior to joining the foundation, she served as a Social Worker at the Gender-Based Violence Protection Unit under the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare. She holds an Honors degree in Social Work from the University of Namibia and brings extensive institutional experience in GBV.

Welcome



Helena Ngaifiwa (Project Officer, One Economy Foundation)

In October, the One Economy Foundation appointed Helena Ngaifiwa as a Project Officer. In her new role, Helena will support project implementation and create public awareness through the #BreakFree From Violence campaign for SGBV related initiatives. Additionally, she will also be responsible for the day-to-day management of our Talented Individual Programme and ensure that the fellows receive the necessary support they need throughout their secondary education.

Helena has over ten years experience as a television presenter and joined the One Economy Foundation as a paid intern in the education and SGBV pillar. She also served as Project Coordinator for the Namibia Careers Expo and worked as a consultant for events management and PR services. She is also the founder of a lifestyle magazine creating awareness on gender-based violence and other issues affecting young women.

"I am excited as this appointment is confirmation that anything is possible, that you can dream as big as you want, and it will come to you. This is a win not only for me but for so many young women who wake up every day to make a difference. Young women who continue to be optimistic, determined, and ambitious even when society tells them otherwise. Everything is possible, and you can be whoever you want to be. Just believe in yourself" stated Helena.

BUILDING RESILIENCE OF YOUTH

As the immediate and long-term impact of COVID-19 to the Namibian socio-economic fabric are becoming more apparent, much-needed attention is being placed on mitigation. There is urgency on the obvious issues occupying mind space, however, as the One Economy Foundation, we are concerned about the soft issues which may be overlooked.

Our particular concern is the impact COVID-19 has had on the mental health and confidence of young entrepreneurs, and how it impacts the natural rhythm of entrepreneurship, risk-taking, innovation and motivation to pursue future plans.

In response to this, the One Economy Foundation convened a forum which assembled entrepreneurs and experts to dialogue on topical entrepreneurial issues and to provide fresh and nuanced perspectives. This forum served as a foundational tool in rebuilding the capacity, confidence and capital of young entrepreneurs in a market shaken by unprecedented crises.

The forum provided great insights into the needs of youth entrepreneurs and the specific challenges they face in the context of COVID-19. The forum further provided a platform for entrepreneurs to network, and access information on the opportunities available for youth in trade, business funding and partnership development.

The Forum's highlight was the Pitching Competition, which had youth entrepreneurs vying for the coveted first and second prizes. The judges were on the lookout for feasible and innovative business ideas. The youth entrepreneurs pitched both physically and virtually to accommodate countrywide participation. The competition was tough, and the entrepreneurs did not make it easy for the judges. In the end, two participants emerged victoriously, Elivi Shinedima from Ndjuluwa97 Academy and Andreas Elifas from Jumper Namibia, won N\$30,000 and N\$20,000, respectively, towards the growth of their businesses.

The Forum reinforced the importance of a holistic response to youth entrepreneurs' needs and critical opportunities that youth can leverage to future proof their business and accelerate their growth and in new markets and industries.



Sem Mandela Utoni (CEO, One Economy Foundation)



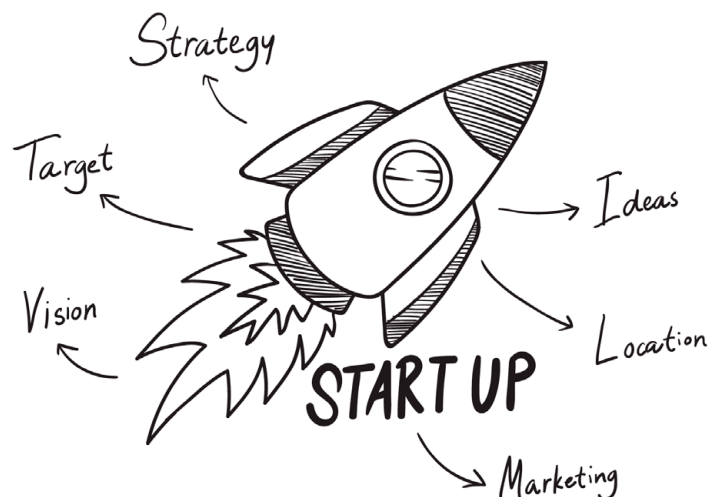
Entrepreneurs receiving COVID-19 PPC packs



The Collaborative and Inclusive Tech Hub from NUST facilitated interactive sessions.



Elivi from Ndjuluwa97 Academy and Andreas from Jumper Namibia were the winners of the business pitch competition.



#BEFREE EXPLORES THE ROLE OF SPORT IN IMPROVING SOCIAL OUTCOMES

BRIDGE BUILDER

#BeFree

The #BeFree Movement hosted a Virtual #BeFree Digital Frontrunners Dialogue, a platform aimed at elevating the voices of young people, youth activists, and artists. The young people from Namibia, Malawi, and Kenya shared their perspectives on the rise of social media as a communication tool, the presence of children on social media and the risks young people face in the context of online safety and while sharing good online practices. #BeFree has assembled diverse voices and interests to drive progress for all, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by young people.

Catherine Nyambura, a Pan African feminist from Kenya recounted that digital transformation is reshaping the world and possibly providing an opportunity to scale up on norms and attitudes in the working space and diversifying approaches to enabling access to services and rights. Digital platforms are bridging gaps and breaking down barriers, “At a time when funding for women’s rights has been on the decline, digital and online campaigns such as #WhatWomenWant have provided a space for young feminists to contribute to and influence global policy discourse on the HIV response. In the same breath, we have a parallel pandemic of violence against women, and we see the same kind of microaggression that women are faced in public spaces reflecting on digital spaces,” narrated Catherine.

Doreen Luhanga, a computer-engineering graduate from Livingstone University, Malawi highlighted how technology has presented effective communication platforms that are fast and cheap, breaking many communication barriers. She further emphasised that the advancement in use of technology has presented many new learning opportunities. She added that social media has removed some physical barriers that confines people to their natural environment by giving them the courage and confidence to use their voices.

In addition, Hon. Emma Theofelus, the youngest Member of Parliament and the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in the Republic of Namibia shared valuable insights into how digital media provides opportunities. However, she was quick to caution young people to be vigilant as social media can be both powerful and dangerous.

The interactive dialogue illuminated that policies need to be developed that will allow people to access all kinds of services in both the urban and rural areas. At the same time, it empowered women and girls by reminding them that there is a need to implement structured and constitutionally enshrined frameworks that protect young people. A focus on general civic education about the importance of our actions on the internet and structuring these in a manner that enables young people to lobby agencies and engage government to effect laws which safeguard minority groups from online violence is critical. Such an approach lends itself greatly to advocating for equitable provision of technological infrastructure to minimise digital divide and expand access to opportunities for engagement.



FLTR: Tarry Goaseb, Bertha Tobias, Cathrine Nyambura, Nghidimondjila Hashikutuva



Nghidimondjila Hashikutuva - Moderator



Bertha Tobias - #BeFree Ambassador

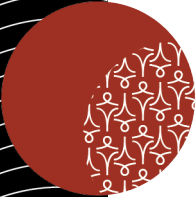
It's fresh, vibrant, and crisp!



The bridge remains a pertinent image of the brand. The arching shape of the bridge references the top of the O in ONE and the shape of the earth denoting unity. It also forms an umbrella shape which signifies protection and implies sub-brands sit under it.

The circles and loops represent creativity, vitality and inclusion. They also give a sense of movement and change which underscores the focus on innovation and social change. The bridge is made of humanoid figures linking together. This shows the need to be unified; as in two economies becoming one, but also that all the sub-brands are working towards a cohesive goal of shared prosperity.

The colour scheme is specifically drawn from the red sand dunes of Namibia with the bright, clear blue sky as its frame. The various blues offer flexibility while representing reliability and trustworthiness. The dusty coral pink refers to the sand dunes, care and warmth.



Connect, Converse, Collaborate

The Foundation hosted a series of pledge dinners to celebrate our milestones, foster relationships, and raise capital for implementation sustainability of our programmes.

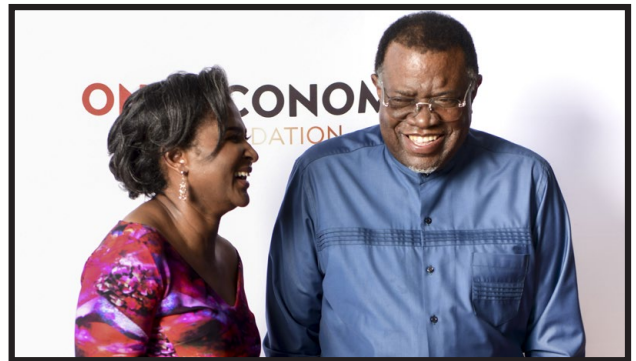
We are proud that the series of dinners offered our partners an opportunity to converse in meaningful dialogues with like-minded people, connect through networking and experience sharing while capitalizing on opportunities to collaborate with us by strengthening partnerships and pledging towards our programmes.

At the event, our partners witnessed a testimony from Jason Kootjie, a fellow of the Talented Individual Programme (TIP) who shared his life journey depicting the value of his participation in the fellowship and detailing how much his character has been built through the One Economy Foundation programmes. Through TIP, we seek to provide successful applicants with an all-encompassing education and life experience. Additionally, at the second pledge evening held on 03 December, Chante Moses and Sarafia Evalistus, who are also beneficiaries of the Talented Individual Programme, commended the scholarship for providing them with the support needed to excel both academically and in extramural activities.

Inga Boye, a beneficiary of the One Nation Fund (ONF), expressed her gratitude for the comprehensive support provided by ONE for her business. With the aid of the collateral-free loan from the Foundation, she was able to upskill in areas such as bookkeeping, marketing and customer service. Additionally, ONE has strengthened her business to withstand some of the challenges presented by COVID-19. She is proud to have provided employment for two bread winners thus paying it forward.



Sarafia Evalistus (TIP Beneficiary)



H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob and FLON



Dr. Veronica Theron (Gender and Protection Specialist, One Economy Foundation)



ONE Partners



Inga Boye (One Nation Fund Beneficiary)



ONE Partners

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

As part of the annual 16 days of activism annual campaign, #BreakFree through the One Economy Foundation hosted a series of events and activities that entail supporting survivors, capacitating front line service providers and sharing information of ending violence.

PROBLEMATIC MINDSETS REPORT LAUNCH



Full Problematic Mindsets Research Report

On 12 October 2020, we launched the full Problematic Mindsets Research Report aimed at understanding the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence. The research adds to existing body of literature on SGBV in Namibia and is essentially conversations with frontline service providers, survivors and perpetrators of SGBV. The collective perspectives embodied in the research are a reminder that the insights of those directly involved in SGBV are useful in guiding the practical application of evidence-based interventions.

At the event, the One Economy Foundation provided a platform for survivors & perpetrators of SGBV to share human interest stories through street talk stories and testimonies from inmates at the Windhoek Correctional Facility. A survivor narrated how her father turned their bedtime stories into an opportunity to groom her by groping her and inflicting other forms of violence on her while her mother was in prison.

Unhealthy relationships, mental health issues, and substance abuse are all drivers of SGBV. It's important to identify red flags in our homes to redirect the trajectory of potential perpetrators. This drives us all to evaluate the dynamics of our respective relationships with the each other and understand how childhood trauma can inform our responsive behaviours.

#BREAKFREE SUPPORT GROUP FOR SGBV SURVIVORS



Dr. Ndaudaneke Hapulile offers yoga for SGBV Survivors

Through the One Economy Foundation #, BreakFree took time to appreciate the milestones of survivors in their respective healing journeys facilitated by the #BreakFree Support Group. The event was held at Mekenificent Wellness Centre in reaffirmation of the dignity of SGBV survivors and included the launch of the support group, which incorporates a wellness experience through uplifting conversation, image consultation, self-defense, and yoga.

Through the support group, #BreakFree will journey with survivors to ensure they receive the support they need to rebuild a meaningful life after experiencing SGBV is a life-long journey, build courage and self-confidence to restore individual hope and agency.

UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC AND DATING VIOLENCE



Capacity Building on SGBV for Distell Management and Staff

SGBV is a complex issue which requires us to be actively engaged. In partnership with Distell Namibia Limited the One Economy Foundation, conducted a sensitisation training for the Distell staff titled 'Understanding Domestic and Dating Violence'. The training created a platform to reinforce the fact that all stakeholders, including the private sector, play a pivotal role in dismantling a culture in which SGBV thrives. This session demonstrated our commitment to provide platforms where Namibians can actively and meaningfully contribute towards decreasing the incidences and occurrences of violence in our society and address SGBV on all fronts.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



GBV Training for Media Practitioners

GBV TRAINING FOR MEDIA PRACTITIONERS

The pervasiveness of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is, among others, a consequence of deeply-rooted patriarchal norms and problematic and negative stereotypes and perceptions which perpetuate misogyny, deepen power imbalances in society and which create a vacuum of ignorance on the causes and pervasiveness of SGBV.

The training serves as a powerful tool to alter perceptions and debunk SGBV myths such as the monster theory, which perpetuates the idea that strangers commit most rape acts and reinforces rape as a consequence of natural, powerful male libido. We regard the media to be powerful stakeholders and as a form of capacity building to enhance their transformative power in changing the harmful stereotypes and perceptions in relation to women and SGBV. We ensure occasional engagement with the media fraternity. Overall, the aim was to help media practitioners realize that they have an obligation to dismantle stereotypes that perpetuate SGBV, and encourage them to present SGBV in the context of an overwhelmingly patriarchal society.



Steven Bernardus Harageib facilitating the information session

#BREAKFREE INFORMATION SHARING SESSION WITH FEMALE INMATES

As we continue reaching out to survivors of SGBV during the 16 days of activism, we recognise the fact that violence often begins with neglect and abuse. Research shows that female offenders tend to be survivors of violence and require psycho-social interventions to address their own trauma and end the cycle of violence. To address the root causes, #BreakFree took steps to engage and empower female inmates through an informative session on parenting, trauma debriefing, and self-care. This initiative is part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2016 between the Namibia Correctional Service and the Office of The First Lady to collaborate on numerous projects, including capacity building and psychosocial interventions, aimed towards violence prevention and to support the effective rehabilitation of offenders.

“ THE RAHABILITATION OF FEMALE OFFENDERS REQUIRES COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THEIR UNIQUE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS. ”

#BREAK Free
 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2020

- 12 SGBV Information Sharing, Medscheme Handover and Launch of the Problematic Mindset Research Report
- 13 SGBV Training with Distell management and staff
- 14 Resilience building event for survivors support group members
- 17 FLO's GBV interview with My ZONE
- 20 Media Practitioners Training on SGBV reporting and the Monster Theory
- 24 GBV Information Sharing session with Female Inmates
- 25 Posts on International Day on Elimination of SGBV and start of 16 Days Campaign
- 26 Capacity Building Workshop for uniformed officers and other frontline service providers
- 27 Capacity building - Secondary Trauma and Self Care for Uniformed Officers and other front line service providers
- 27 #BreakFree GBV Art Exhibition Event - #WhatWereYouWearing?

DECEMBER 2020

- 01 BeFree BreakFree Discussion on link between GBV and HIV with Teen Club and YAA and other adolescents (within 12-19 years) on Tuppoyani
- 01-09 #EndingViolenceStartsWithMe - Anti-violence campaign video clips
- 10 Posts on Human rights Day and end of #16DaysOfActivism


📍 @breakfreefromviolence
📍 @BeFreeBreakFree
📍 @BreakFree From Violence

16 Days of Activism Calendar

Yours in pursuance of One Economy,



 hello@1economy.org

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