



BACK GROUND OF HIPO

HIPO (Hizetjitwa Indigenous Peoples' Organisation) The member organization for the Himba, Zemba, Tjimba and Twa peoples. HIPO was established in 2008 as a member organization aimed at improving the life quality and cultural unity of the indigenous peoples in the north-west of Namibia and in the south-west of Angola. HIPO is an officially approved Namibian NGO, operating according to the regulations set by the government. So far HIPO has been supported financially and professionally by the Norwegian organization 'Namibia Association of Norway' (NAMAS – well known for supporting the establishment of mobile schools for the indigenous

peoples in Kunene). NAMAS on its side receives funds from the Norwegian government through NORAD. The HIPO board consists of seven members and two substitutes, all originating from the member communities. The Board was elected at Annual Meetings and directs the administration working out from the office in Opuwo.



HIPO's Boards of Director

LIST OF BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF HIPO

Chairperson:	Mr. Heinz Maudu Muniehi
Mr. Daniel Muharukua	Luckas Tjoola
Vice-Chairperson:	Substitutes
Mr. Musengua Tjiposa	Mr. Tjikunda Katjina
Secretary: Mss. Lucesia Ruiter	Kulunga
Treasurer: Mr Ngavapopye Daniel Mbalundu	Mr. Uperuako Hembinda
Mr. Chris Mbomboro	Special Advisor to HIPO:
	Mr. Harald Ekker

HIPO HANDS OVER THE WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT AT ORUVANDJEI

The community of Oruvandjei village received their rehabilitated water spring on Wednesday the 11 November 2009.

The spring was cleaned and then fenced off by the community themselves with the technical assistance of the Red Cross Society of Namibia's staff in Opuwo.

HIPO sponsored funds that provided for the food that was consumed by 20 community members who were involved in the project.

An amount of N\$ 29000 used for the food, tools and fencing off of this water spring is the highest

funding that HIPO an infant none profit making organization had sponsored this far since it was officially registered and recognized by the Namibian Government.

During the handing over of the project the Executive Director of HIPO,

Tjinezuma Kavari said that he was very happy that HIPO has achieved one of its set of objectives of giving clean water to its community. The Red Cross also sponsored with the pipes that are installed from the spring to different houses in the village.

HIPO is coordinating its



Picture : The invited guests looking at the source from where the water is coming from the ground at the rehabilitated water spring of Oruvandjei village.

ORUVANDJE WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS

activities with other NGOs and Government institutions in areas that they are involved in. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Water Supply was also involved in the implementation of the project as well as the Department of Rural Extension. The Department of Rural Water Supply and Rural Extension office as well as the Red Cross Society were represented by the heads of both departments during the official handing over.

Kavari called on community to use the water for cultivation purposes and supply the community of Kunene Region including the schools with fresh fruits and vegetables.

The chairperson of HIPO, Daniel Muharukua called on the community to protect the fence and all implements and take good care of them.

He added that HIPO is having the problems of

the community at heart and it is looking for funds to assist where it can.

The Managing Director of Norwegian Organization the Namibia Association of Norway (NAMAS), Svein Qrsnes and Siri Austeng a board member of NAMAS and also a former Governor of Norway witnessed the handing over of the Oruvandjei Project.



Picture : The community of Oruvandjei gives the visitors a tour around the fenced off water spring during the official handing over.

The MD of NAMAS, Svein is happy about progress of HIPO in a short period of time

Svein prays HIPO for producing fruits already in a very short period of time. Svein made the remarks during the handing over of the N\$ 29000 worth water rehabilitation project at Oruvandjei on 11 November 2009.

He said water was an essential and there was a lot that one could do with the clean water.

“I am very pleased to witness

HIPO’s coordination with other organizations and Government departments, that is a nice strategy,” said Svein.



From left: Siri and Svein

According to Svein he will visit Oruvandjei in the future to come and witness the fruits that will come from the project.

However Svein left a bad test in the mouth of those who worked with him after he announced that he was going to resign as the MD of NAMAS next year. Svein have been involved in

Kunene region since 1995 in the education sector.



Picture: Himba women in Kunene Region, Namibia

Comments on HIPO’s Activities in the community

The Chief Extension Officer

Mrs. E. Handunge commented HIPO for a good job, but however said that HIPO should learn from other organizations and stop from giving free assistance to the community. According to Handunge communities do not appreciate free gifts that they did not contribute to in one way or another.

“This Project of Fencing will be

well protected because the community constructed it themselves that is a guarantee,” she said.

According to Handunge NGOs should discourage free handouts. A small percentage will make a difference and add value to what was donated to the community.



Mrs. Handunge

Wetbooi said after the handing over at Oruvandjei that HIPO was doing a great job, and that he hope that they support more other communities in different fields. “This was a really good start for a small NGO, but one do not know how is its funding as one would like it to expand its assistance to the entire region.

Comments on HIPO continues.

The Chairperson of the Community Committee at Oruvandjei, Kauna Hartley thanked HIPO and the community for successfully completing the both the cleaning and fencing off of the water spring.

Hartley said that the cleaning and fencing brought a big change as people and animals can now drink clean water.

“In the passed the water was not that much clean as the animals used to go into the spring and most of the time excrete in the water. Some times dogs swims

in the springs,” said Hartley.

The Ovambanderu Traditional Leader of Oruvandjei Chief, Karutavi Salomon Hartley called on the community to protect the fence and to give appropriate punishment to any one who damages it.

Senior Traditional Leader of Oruvandjei, Uatengapo Tjikombo thanked HIPO for the assistance and requested for HIPO to provide them with cultivating equipments to plough their gardens throughout the year, using irrigation.

HIPO's main activities for the coming three months in Namibia and Angola

Recruit the Project Officer

Introduce and give in house training to the new Finance and Administration Officer as from early January 2010

Conduct a Board seminar in December concentrating on financial and administrative procedures

Hand over the new cleared road from Ohajuuwa to the main road network. The

Meet with tourist agencies and companies regarding cooperation with the local communities

Intensify internal and external information, using media more actively

Establish an HIPO Home Page at the Internet

Visit HIPO local Committees and distribute

road is 15 km and will benefit at least 300 persons.

Distribute ploughs to communities

Initiate new social projects at local level (water, road clearing, etc.), and work with government entities for implementation of projects

Visit potential donors in Windhoek



Picture: Two Zemba women at a water hand pump in Angola .



Picture: HIPO field workers crossing the Kunene River into Angola using a boat.

HIPO's Cooperation with Angola

The border between Angola and Namibia is purely artificial seen from the local people's viewpoint.

The local population has for hundreds of years maintained close contact over the border Namibia/Angola, and share history, language, traditions and religion, as well as family ties. Angolan has taken part in HIPO activities in Namibia, for instance at a workshop in Opuwo and in all Annual Meetings held this far. It is now a main

objective for HIPO to support the establishment of a HIPO organization in Angola, mainly aimed at improving the education situation. The Kunene region has had considerable success in establishing and managing mobile schools in remote areas, and this model could be of great value also for the Angolan fellow kinsmen . HIPO Field Officers will visit the Chitado in Angola and meet local contact persons and traditional leaders.

The aim is to inform the communities on the benefits from being organized, get at least 30 members and establish an interim HIPO Angola steering committee. From that basis the Constitution will be preliminary adopted and an application for formalizing a local HIPO NGO will be submitted to the government in the Cunene province.

information regarding HIPO activities

Train Field Officers in different disciplines relevant to the HIPO members

Support the establishment of an Angolan HIPO

HIPO is working on the basis of the Five Years Plan 2009-2013.



Picture: Seen here are Ovatwe women and children at a HIPO meeting in the Epupa Constituency in Kunene Region in Namibia.

The HIPO 2009 Annual Meeting Highlights at Etoto Village.

The Annual Meeting was held 21 and 22 August 2009 at Etoto, a mainly Zemba area 30 km. west of the Ruacana road, and 150 km. from Opuwo.

Production, copying and distribution of Annual Meeting invitations and documents were mostly concluded two weeks before the meeting. Distribution was a big job, mainly done by Field Officers and hired transport.

Transport of participants from around 60 villages started Wednesday 19 August, mainly by use of 30 contracted vehicles. By Thursday 20 August afternoon almost all participants were at the site, enjoying a meal and sleeping in tents brought along. Firewood was provided, fires lit and the Himba and Zemba danced, clapped and drummed into the late evening.

Saturday proceedings were a bit

complicated, involving amendments to the Constitution and election of a new member substituting Kavari, and two board substitutes to be called when board members are not able to participate in a meeting.

At least 300 participants attended from all the targeted area, some travelling 400 km one way (10 hours or more)

Only 204 delegates from 72 HIPO Community Based Committees met each other and shared experience. At least 38 chiefs or their representatives met and learned about HIPO. At least 66 invited guests and drivers (cultural groups included) could also follow the proceedings. 33% female participation should bore well



Picture: People at the HIPO 2009 Annual Meeting at Etoto Village in Kunene Region.

for the gender objectives. The 10 HIPO Field Officers did a very good job, and also learned a lot regarding organizing events and conducting of formal meetings. The participants were very attentive and the discussions were good. The meeting was very educative for the participants in how to direct a meeting, discuss issues and reach decisions

The Constitution was amended so that now the board will have two substitute and the Director having check signing rights.

People enjoyed being together at the meeting, in the evening and at night. It was really a fantastic togetherness event. Complemented with cultural dances.

Picture: Himba man participating in discussions at the Etoto A G M 2009



The Executive Directors Note

I have the privilege as the first HIPO's Executive Director to make the first note to our first HIPO newsletter.

The year 2009 is historic to HIPO and its entire membership, being the year in which HIPO started its mission of improving the life quality of its members. With its tiny administrative staff of three and very limited resources at its disposal has to implement water and sanitation as well as road clearing projects at different villages of communities of Epupa and Opuwo Constituencies respectively. The communities of Omombo, Oruvandjei and Okapembambu were assisted in water projects while Ohajuwa, Omusine and Orujombo communities where benefited from the road clearing projects. At least 200 people are beneficiaries at each villages from these social projects from their initial stages until their completion. As an operational strategy, HIPO is cooperating with other NGOs locally as well as with government entities in implementing social projects. I am very much confident that HIPO will respond positively to the needs of our members and ensure quality life for all members, while keeping the motto of HIPO which is: Development, Dignity and Unity.



Mr.T. Kavari

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The member peoples

The indigenous peoples Himba, Zemba, Tjimba and Twa in north west Namibia and south west Angola migrated into these countries centuries ago. It is anticipated that the origin of these peoples lay in western Africa and that they during their long migration through central Africa interconnected with other peoples and adopted some of their traditional lifestyles. Since entering Angola and Namibia they lived and live in remote, dry and mountainous areas, not being much influenced by the outside world. For that reason they have kept their religion, their rituals, their dances, their beliefs, their ornaments and the female attire intact.

But this is changing, the modern world is coming closer, and forces are at work influencing their way of life. In order to better maintain their culture and way of life these peoples in Namibia saw the necessity of standing together and building their own organization, HIPO. The same is now the situation in Angola.

The Himba, Tjimba and Twa are basically the same people sharing all cultural elements including the language and the attire. The difference lies in their perceived socioeconomic position; the Twa used to be regarded as the poorest, traditionally being gatherers in mountainous areas, while the Himba and Tjimba are today semi nomadic cattle breeders and small scale agriculturalists. Of these two the Himba is traditionally regarded to be the better offs.

These three groups speaks (in both countries) the same language, the Otjiherero, facilitating easy communication across the border. The Zemba's livelihood and culture is more or less the same as the other member peoples, but are distinct in several aspects. Their language is unique and their traditional attire different. Many live among the other indigenous peoples without any sign of conflict.

The governments have no figures regarding the size of the population of the member peoples. It is, however, estimated that the total population lies in the range of 30000, more or less equally distributed between the two countries.

HIPO also have many Herero members. Even though they have they own traditional dresses, most share the basic cultural elements with the other member peoples. In Northern Kunene we find quite a number of Hereros, most descendents of Hereros migrating to Angola due to the war with the Germans. After some years in Angola they trekked back to Namibia, and many settled in northern Kunene.

Total 330 words

Plans, budgets and accounts

HIPO is working on the basis of the Five Years Plan 2009-2013. For each year Annual Plans and Budgets are elaborated and approved. The more specific activities are set out in Work Plans spanning three months. The accounts are closed for every month within set deadlines. The HIPO auditor in Windhoek makes half year and full year audits.



Picture up: A Zemba women & a child

Picture below: Himba men posing for a picture.



Picture up: Zemba Women Dancing Omutjopa traditional dance

Picture below: Ovatwe women & children sitting



Picture on the right: Herero Women in Herero traditional attires.

