

Operational Framework for Reading, Debating and Entrepreneurship Clubs for Namibian Schools

**A Project of the Chevauchee Foundation and
NANSO**

Introduction

The Chevauchee Foundation was set-up in 2012 to promote ideas that will bring prosperity to promote freedom for all Namibians. At the Chevauchee Foundation we firmly believe that only prosperity can secure freedom and a lasting peace for all Africans and that the economic growth that will deliver such prosperity will come about only through the embrace of classical liberal principles emphasising personal responsibility, private initiative, secure property rights and a minimalist state. We believe that many of the problems that currently bedevil our continent result from an overweening state that interferes in every aspect of life and does so in the most incompetent and expensive manner, lack of clearly

defined and secure property rights and a poor view of the individual and his capacity for wealth creation.

Through the work of our founders across Africa, we've come to the conclusion that corruption, nepotism, cronyism and tribalism will remain endemic in Africa for as long as the state continues to dominate the economic life of its citizens. In Namibia for example, the state employs around 60% of the workforce that is not employed in agriculture and controls an equal portion of the economy. The government has interests in everything from mining, agriculture, transportation (rail, air and land), tourism etc. The state also controls access to land for majority of Namibians residing in communal areas who do not have title to the land they occupy and who are constantly at the mercy of Communal Land Board officials and traditional authorities. The government's focus on redistribution of wealth to alleviate the imbalances caused by apartheid means that for the foreseeable future the state will continue to intervene in all aspects of the people's economic life. This is a situation which if it is not addressed soon will lead to tensions between different ethnic groups as all will compete to capture state power and with it the spoils that such power can bring.

For as long as there has been a Namibian State, starting with the Imperial German colony in 1880 through to the apartheid South African administration and the current post independence government, we have been a people who have used state power as a way of changing or ordering our society. This has produced genocide, racial discrimination and in the post independence era secessionist uprisings and ethnic tension.

Obviously the time has come for us to try something else and with your help we hope to help raise a new generation of Namibians through sustained and thorough education and sensitization campaigns! Our project, aims to introduce high school students across Namibia to ideas and ways of thinking that encourage a different understanding of the proper duties of the state as well as respect for individual rights including property rights. We hope to do this by providing reading materials to students an mentorship to help them see the opportunities for applying their talents in solving some of the problems affecting their communities.

For Namibia and indeed Africa to prosper and enjoy peace, we need limited and modest government with richer and more secure citizens! This can be achieved by embracing the principles espoused by Smith, Hayek and others. You could help us disseminate these powerful ideas to the next generation of Namibians and thereby help us secure a future for our country!

Background

The Chevauchee Foundation is a foundation that promotes economic progress through creativity and enterprise. The foundation works primarily with young people in low income urban communities in Namibia to promote economic enterprise and wealth creation as the only way to secure lasting peace and prosperity for all Namibians. In conjunction with NANSO, we have resolved to launch a national reading, debating and entrepreneurship program at all Government high schools across Namibia.

The program shall focus particularly on schools in low income communities where access to reading materials and mentorship opportunities is rare. The purpose is to

provide students with an understanding of the role that freedom plays in the creation of prosperity, the skills to investigate the problems confronting them more thoroughly, offer viable business solutions to these problems and articulate their needs more confidently.

The program consists of three parts which are all geared toward providing participating students with the skills stated above. These three parts are:

1. Reading Clubs
2. Debating Societies
3. Entrepreneurship Workshop and Community Outreach

A reading club will be established at each high school and will consist of four reading groups per school. The reading clubs will follow a set curriculum established by the Chevauchee Foundation and NANSO. This curriculum will determine the type of reading materials that will be provided to each reading club. Core readings for the reading clubs will be drawn from the tradition that began the scientific study of prosperity but will also include a focus on poetry as well as philosophy and history.

Each reading club will also act as a debating society in order to facilitate a better grasp of the reading material as well as to allow for an exchange of views on the different interpretations of the reading materials.

We originally did not include the entrepreneurship workshop in our proposal but after consultation with NANSO grassroots student leaders we decided that one of the best ways to get the message of entrepreneurship, individual rights and responsibility across is by organising entrepreneurship clubs alongside the reading program. The purpose of the entrepreneurship clubs is to encourage students to look at their environment critically and come up with innovative solutions to addressing these issues. We believe that such a program will entrench the enthusiasm and respect for private initiative which we are hoping to nurture through the reading and debating aspects of the program.

This operational framework or guideline is developed to foster a common understanding and agreement between NANSO and the Chevauchee Foundation on the process to be used in the implementation of the Reading, Debating and Entrepreneurship program for Namibian High Schools.

Implementation Approach

The implementation, management and coordination of the program will be performed jointly by NANSO and the Chevauchee Foundation. The success of this project will depend heavily on NANSO ability to manage and motivate its volunteer network which will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the clubs at the different schools through its structures. This is to ensure that as much of the money as possible that is made available by the Chevauchee Foundation and its partners will go toward the procurement of material and prizes as opposed to supporting a huge administration structure. The finances for the project will be controlled and supervised by the Chevauchee Foundation. Relying on NANSO's volunteer structure will thus allow us to reach more learners whilst spending less money overall.

We will initially start with 60 schools spread along the B1 road from Windhoek to Keetmanshoop in the south, from Windhoek to Oshakati in the north, the B2 to road from Okahandja to Walvis Bay as well as Gobabis in the east. Each school shall have one club containing no more than 16 members initially. We have selected to focus on the towns on these roads because of the easy availability of public transport which will be essential in carrying out the supervision, management and coordination functions in the cheapest possible way. We will expand to other towns once the project is more firmly established and funding is sufficient.

Management and Operation of the Reading Club

Club Structure

Each club shall be managed by the club members themselves and will be supervised by the NANSO branch secretary for the town. The club shall be managed according to the rules and principles laid down in the club charter. This charter will act as the contract binding the book club to NANSO and the Chevauchee Foundation. Any violation of the charter is therefore a violation of the contract between the club, the Chevauchee Foundation and NANSO and the charter can be revoked and all support to the club halted. To ensure that this is averted the club secretary will be required to enforce the rules laid down in the club charter and ensure that his/her club adheres to the principles contained therein.

Each club will consist of no more than 16 members and no less than 8 members. From these members will be elected a discussion leader, administrator and coordinator/organizer. The roles and duties of these functions are elaborated in more detail below:

- **Discussion Leader:** The main duties of each group discussion leader is to facilitate discussion around the materials covered by the group. The discussion leader should summarize all discussions so as to allow club members to improve their understanding by perusing through previous discussions. The discussion leader is also expected to encourage members to read the materials provided to them.
- **Administrator:** The duties of the club administrator are to ensure the effective functioning of the club through taking attendance of the various club meetings, account and keep track of the club's reading and other material and finally to ensure compliance of the club and its members with the principles laid out in the club charter agreed with NANSO and the Chevauchee Foundation.
- **Coordinator:** The primary duties of the club coordinator is to coordinate the club's participation in various activities such as debates, community outreach and so on. The coordinator will also be the liaison officer between the club and the NANSO volunteer supervising the clubs in the region.

Meetings

We would of course love for clubs to hold meetings every day but this may put an unnecessary strain on the members as they also have to perform other tasks such as studying and other extra curricular activities.

- We expect each club to hold 2 meetings a month on any week day that is convenient for them.

- All club meetings shall be held at the school premises after school. This will ensure that those members who may not have transportation are able to attend the meetings whilst also allowing us to keep the costs of the program low by piggy backing on the existing infrastructure.
- Each club is to organise a community outreach event once every three months in coordination with other clubs in the area. This will be done in strict coordination with the NANSO volunteer for the area.

Programs/Activities

Though each club is free to create activities on its own for its members, we expect that the following activities will be included in each meeting session as part of the club’s and NANSO’s partnership with the Chevauchee Foundation.

1. Discussion
 - i) Discussion of reading materials provided by the Chevauchee Foundation
 - ii) Discussion of local issues related to unemployment, education, the individual and society and Namibian history and society.
2. Workshop
 - i) Discuss local issues, identify business (for profit or otherwise) opportunity to solve issues and prepare simple business plan to explore possibility of exploiting opportunity
 - ii) Basic business skills and personal finance training, Outreach to business local business leaders (speeches by local CEO’s, question and answer etc)
3. Debating
 - i) Debates should be held every 3 months within the club and amongst clubs within the same region
4. Community Outreach
 - i) Sensitization and learning sessions with local residents

Resource Requirements

To implement this program to a reasonable level of success we will require some funding. Up until now all the funding for the activities undertaken by the Chevauchee Foundation have come from the Hengari and Tjirimuje families. This has limited the reach and scope of the program. This project cannot be implemented without some sort of investment by outside donors. The following table provides an indication and cost estimate for some of the resources for which additional funding is being sought.

Activity/Resource/Item	Details	Importance/Urgency	Cost

Staff			
1.1 Project Coordinator	This is an allowance to allow the foundation to employ a project coordinator to ensure the smooth running of the project	This is quite important to ensure that the project is carried out effectively and that resources and time are not wasted.	USD 6000,00 per annum
1.3 NANSO Volunteers	NANSO has allowed us the use of their regional secretaries to coordinate the activities of the different clubs in the towns we are operating in. We will use 7 volunteers in all.	Without NANSO volunteers the reading clubs will be adrift on their own without any guidance or management. This may be desirable later on but it could spell disaster at the beginning	USD 7000,00 per annum (for 10 months effort)
Prizes			
2.1 Annual Debating Prize	This is just a motivational tool really or an incentive.	We intend to obtain some of the funding for this prize from local newspapers but we are not opposed to any contribution. It need not be money.	USD 900,00
2.2 Best Business Plan Prize	The prize here is an opportunity to meet with a popular business personality to pitch your idea. Again, this is mainly a motivational tool.	In the past we offered internships and summer work to students who had taken a particular interest in community issues and this worked well to generate interest in sanitation and water. We are sure that such a prize will have the same effect on encouraging entrepreneurial youth to come up with possible solutions to the problems they encounter in their community. Again, the assistance here does not need to be in the form of	USD 1800,00

		money.	
Books and Training			
3.2 Volunteer Training	In partnership with NBIC	Essential	USD 2800,00
3.3 Printing of Books	As an alternative to shipping. Printing 6000 copies of 200 page books	Essential	USD 4541,00
Total			USD 23041,00