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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

For many years, we the #Nūkhoen [Damara people] have suffered cultural alienation. But we have remained committed to celebrating who we are, including our leaders and Kings. So the Kings Festival is one of the places where the #Nūkhoen can freely express them and can speak, dance and eat and remember who we are.

We are in the process of losing our culture, history and language. Where our histories have often been miss represented. So we are now tracing back and expressing ourselves, rejuvenating our #Nūkhoen (Damara) culture, where it is honored at the Kings festival. Through our Kings Festival we seek to involve investigative research and documentation of our history dating from pre-colonial, colonial and the Independence period of our Nation to today.

After many festivals this latest 2016 37th Damara Kings Festival celebration stands out, because it was in this festival that we finally managed to depict what #Nūkhoen / Damara-ness means, as from our ancestors. We have a strong cultural root and you can see this in the festival that is depicted clearly in the film.

The film will bring pride and confidence in our past and re-build our future. So many of the performing groups are young. As it is in our culture, the women are the cultural custodians and thus leading - the festival. The men follow. This is how it is with our cultural things. And the film reveals this.

This film will be a film for social interaction, for group discussions, it can be shown to the youth, the children, as an educational tool, for the nation at large when they see this it may change perceptions. This is why it can go on the NBC for the nation to see.

The film has sub-titles for on to read what does the each event mean, for example, Axue mean when he says those things about women's initiation that has been lots so he is calling us back to the return to that rituals. We can use these films when we do these ceremonies.

Additionally, we don't have the funds to do such enormous work. By you producing this future pasts film of this festival, we now have one of the first professional archives of our event. By you allowing us to use this film add a sense of pride, ownership and a longer term partnership with you in this valuable project you are bringing to Namibia.

Thank you for this opportunity



Yours sincerely
Rosa Namises, Damara King's Festival Organising Committee