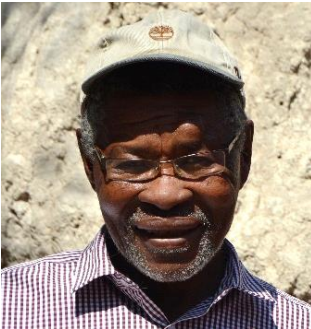


Statements by the Elders and some of the Young Workshop Participants



Helena Khobes:

“I feel blessed to be old. You should recognize the privilege you have to be able to learn from us here. Not all of you have grandparents that you can learn from and that you can ask about your culture. This is your chance to learn from us – the future lies in your hands. This is the start for taking your generation to safety.”



Jan Tsumib:

“We have lost our treasure that is Etosha. Having lost our land made us lose our language, culture, knowledge, and heritage. In the past, people practiced dances and songs, today young people play the radio and listen to music made by others. We are trying to live the lives of others today. We as elders don’t want our culture to die out – that’s why we are here with you.”



Maria Khobes:

“I am very thankful to have been able to be here. We must not lose hope with the young people. We’re about to leave this world. I came to teach the young people but I also learned many things from them. We must respect each other, then we can move forward as one.”



Memsie Hanes, 23:

“Many of us did not have the chance to grow up with our grandparents. Today, many young people drink or take drugs because they do not know about their culture. I feel very thankful to the elders who have left their homes and families to accompany me during my first time in Etosha and teach me so much.”



Jacob Gaiseb, 22:

“During this week, we have recuperated our background and we have strengthened ourselves. We learned many things that we did not know before. I admire the life of the Hai//om in the bush in the past because they were free. I want to continue to learn from the elders before they leave and gather their knowledge and information.”



Selma Petrus, 22:

“I want to learn so much more from Oupa Jan and the other elders. I want to write it down so I can tell others about it, other young people but also our parents.”



Hannis Khaumb, 24:

“I am happy that the elders have shown us the places of our ancestors in Etosha which we did not know before. I have always wanted to know how people dealt with dangerous animals or situations in the bush in the past. I am also very interested to learn more about traditional medicine.”



Nani Gamamus, 18:

"I feel that my grandmother's life was better than mine. She knew more than me. She could just not read or write, but she knew so much more."



Werner Kaiseb, 18:

"I would like to learn more from the elders about the different veldfoods. And I really want to recover our language."



Emilie Gamamus, 20:

"I would like the elders to tell us more stories from the past and learn how they lived before."



Doliman Naseb, 22:

"I was very moved seeing the places where the elders stayed in the past. I believe life in the past was good. I think it is important that there was respect, and that children listened to their parents. We have to approach the elders so they can teach us our culture so that it does not get lost."