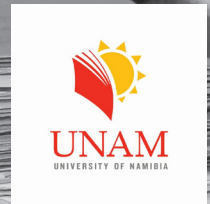


BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION



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Ellen Ndeshi Namhila
"Little Research Value"
*African Estate Records and Colonial Gaps
in a Post-Colonial National Archive*
Basel Namibia Studies Series 17
ISBN 978-3-905758-78-8

Dr Ellen Ndeshi Namhila and the **Basler Afrika Bibliographien**
cordially invite you to the launch of the book
**„Little Research Value”. African Estate Records and Colonial Gaps in a
Post-Colonial National Archive** by Ellen Ndeshi Namhila

Venue: National Independence Memorial Museum Restaurant (Nimms)
Robert Mugabe Avenue, top floor

Date and time: Wednesday 7 February 2018, 5.00 pm

Programme:

- **Welcome** – Madam of Ceremonies: Mrs Ndeshi Namupala (UNAM)
- **“Untapped archives for new Namibian (labour) histories”**
Panel discussion with Dr Dag Henrichsen (BAB), Werner Hillebrecht (Archivist),
Herbert Jauch (Labour Expert), Dr Phanuel Kaapama (UNAM), Dr Ellen Ndeshi Namhila
(UNAM), Dr Napandulwe Shiweda (UNAM)
- **Introduction of Speakers** – Sam Shivute (UNAM)
- **Address of Author**
Dr Ellen Ndeshi Namhila
- **Keynote Address**
H.E. Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia
- **Words of thanks** – Dr Dag Henrichsen (BAB)

Media Review and Sales Copies available.

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About the Book

Ellen Ndeshi Namhila is intrigued by the question: Why can the National Archives of Namibia respond to enquiries of Whites in a matter of minutes with finding estate records of deceased persons, while similar requests from Blacks cannot be served? Not satisfied with the sweeping statement that this is the result of colonialism and apartheid, she follows the tracks of so-called "Native estates" through legislation, record creation and disposal, records management and administrative neglect, authorised and unauthorised destruction, transfer and appraisal, selective processing and (almost) final amnesia. Eventually she discovers over 11,000 forgotten surviving African estate records. She demonstrates the potential of these records to interpret the lives of those who otherwise appear in history only as statistics.

This study of memory against forgetting is a call to post-colonial archives to re-visit their holdings and the systemic colonial bias that continues to haunt them.