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## Namdeb hands out N\$1 m

NAMDEB's social fund gave over N\$1 million to a large number of social causes yesterday, with the lion's share going to a documentary project on legendary freedom fighter Jacob Marengo.

Marengo's great grandson, Willem Konjore, who is also deputy speaker of the National Assembly, was on hand to witness the occasion, as were representatives of some of the 31 other organisations being helped out.

The included the Menu of Partnership Options AIDS project, which received N\$105 000, the Luderitz Town Council, which received N\$100 000 for renovations in the township of Benguela, and the ELCIN Rehabilitation

Centre, which got N\$92 000 for building a braille printing works.

A number of small businesses received donations, including Rundu Radiators, a mechanical business in Kavango, EAWA productions, a wire crafts workshop, and YUNAM foods, which makes processed foods and plans to develop a piggery. Several schools received money, mainly to buy photocopiers and computers.

The Jacob Marengo documentary project, headed by well-known filmmaker Johan Liebenberg, received N\$200 000.

Konjore, thanking the corporation for the funds, said he wanted to highlight that Marengo was a man of many cultures. "He was of Herero par-

entage. He grew up among the Namas and married a Nama wife. He was educated at Roman Catholic mission stations. He rose to become a leader representing different cultures," Konjore said.

The MP also said Marengo's struggle was, among other things, for land. He said in independent Namibia the situation had changed and a peaceful solution had been chosen. However, Namibia would be sitting on a "time bomb" if the land issue were not finally resolved, he said.

In a speech read on his behalf by Diamond Commissioner Kennedy Hamutenya, Minister of Mines Jesaya Nyamu, said corporate social responsibility had come a long way since the half-

hearted attempts of the early 1970s.

Since the 1990s, "corporate social investment moved from a 'nice-to-have' to a 'must-have' principle," Nyamu said.

He said such social investment had a number of benefits including enhanced corporate image, improved employee morale and stabilising the social and economic environment in the community.

Namdeb MD Inge Zaamwani said that a strong emphasis had been put on small enterprises, in the hope that there would generate sufficient revenue to pull their communities out of poverty.

Namdeb made about N\$1 536 million in income before tax in the 2001 financial year.