



ECONOMIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE TRUST

The Economic and Social Justice Trust (ESJT) was formed in 2012 and registered in 2013 by a group of activists to promote struggles for economic and social justice. The key aims of the Trust are to enhance and promote the social and economic rights of Namibians. This includes the fair and equitable distribution of resources with a particular emphasis on enhancing the rights of the economically and socially excluded Namibians. The Trust also advocates for fundamental changes in the economic system to effect redistribution in favour of the poor.

The Trust is a lobby and advocacy group for economic, social and cultural rights in Namibia. It campaigns and takes action in relation to exposing corruption and self-enrichment in both public and private sectors. The Trust also cooperates with regional and international organisations or individuals who share the trust's aim and objectives.

The Trust consists of activists who volunteer their time and knowledge to engage in campaigns and specific projects. The Trust meets several times a year and works with other organisations on areas of common interest. The Trustees annually elect a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and a Treasurer from amongst their ranks.

Which activities has the Trust undertaken so far?

Since its formation until 2020 the Trust has worked without any donor funding and has relied on the voluntary contributions of its Trustees to carry out the work. The main activities of the Trust have centred on the prevention of marine phosphate mining and a tobacco plantation in the Zambezi region as well as the campaign for the rights of Shoprite workers and for a Basic Income Grant (BIG) for all Namibians. The Trust also engaged the Namibian Parliament to raise awareness about the consequences of debt (in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development-ZIMCODD). In 2019, the Trust published a booklet on the experiences of Otjivero where the pilot project of the BIG took place in 2008 and 2009.

The Trust played an active role in the people's SADC summit of 2018 and works with the international campaign to hold Transnational Corporations accountable.

Since 2020, the Trust has organised an Activist School for (mostly young) activists to prepare them for their role in shaping a better Namibia, a better Africa and a better world. The Activist Schools took two format, namely monthly events in Windhoek for a period of 18 months as well as weekly residential schools during which a host of issues such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, gender justice, decent housing as a human right, a living wage, universal health care, climate justice, consumer rights etc. were tackled.

Since 2021, the Trust publishes the Namibian Journal of Social Justice to provide a platform for open and critical debate on the many aspects of the struggle for economic and social justice from a progressive perspective. The journal contains peer-reviewed scholarly articles as well as activist accounts and creative contributions. It is produced by an editorial collective who do their work as volunteers. Volume 1 (July 2021) dealt with the housing crisis in Namibia; volume 2 (November 2022) tackled inequality and social justice and volume 3 (November 2023) focused on employment, livelihoods and the world of work. The Journal is available on its website www.namsocialjustice.org.

In addition, the Trust plays a prominent role in ongoing social justice campaigns in collaboration with other like-minded organisations. In September 2023, the Trust convened a national civil society conference on green hydrogen in collaboration with the University of Hamburg, Germanwatch, Corporate Europe Observatory and Green H2 watch in South Africa.

Who are the Trustees?

Rinaani Musutua is a multidimensional, inventive and committed corporate communications professional who holds an MA in International Public Relations. She has international experience of designing and implementing marketing and communications strategies for commercial, charitable and public organisations. She was a delegate at the 2018 National Land Conference and contributed to the NGO position paper on Namibia's implementation of the UN 2030 Sustainable Developmental Goals. Rinaani coordinated the Namibian BIG campaign since 2021 and is a cosmopolitan who speaks English, Swedish, Afrikaans, Otjiherero and German.

Doufi Namalambo is a specialist in training and facilitation of workshop processes where her interpersonal skill and confidence assists groups to move through difficult process steps. She has consulted in the human resources development and organisation development field in Namibia and South Africa. She has been a team member on several strategic planning assignments and assisted with process planning and implementation in sectors including Water, Land, Energy, Environment, Mining, Labour, Youth, Disaster Management and Emergency Response, Donors, Churches and community-based organisations.

John Nakuta is a social justice academic who teaches administrative law and human rights law at the faculty of law at the University of Namibia (UNAM). He holds post-graduate qualifications in law and education. John's socio-legal research interests are in the areas of housing, sanitation, access to information, administrative justice, land justice, gender justice, and reparations for historical injustices. He also works on issues related to vulnerable and marginalised minority group such as indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, sex workers, and sexual minorities. His previous work experiences include trade unions and the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC).

Claudius Riruako is an activist in the BIG campaign and an advocate for human rights and social justice. He focuses on boys mental health, female health and the ESJT Activist School. Claudius is a multimedia student, specialising in broadcasting at Limkokwing International University. He is the founder of a youth activist initiative and member of the editorial collective of the Namibian Journal of Social Justice.

Nafimane Hamukoshi is a student at the University of Namibia, studying political science. She serves as the executive director of a youth-led organization, known as Comrades Association. Nafimane also co-facilitates the Basic Income Grant campaign and coordinates three BIG societies at educational institutions such as UNAM, Triumphant College and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). She is involved in four other organisations, has strong public speaking skills, and fearlessly holds leaders accountable.

Herbert Jauch has been with the labour movement in Southern Africa in various capacities for a long time. During the past 30 years, he worked as labour researcher, carrying out research projects for the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordination Council (SATUCC) as well as Namibian and South African trade unions. Herbert was instrumental in developing a labour diploma course for Namibian trade unions and served as director of the Labour Resource and Research Institute (LARRI) in Katutura from 1998 until 2007. He also worked as freelance labour researcher and currently serves as the chairperson of the Economic and Social Justice Trust (ESJT).