Home of Heart - Namibian Migrant Stories

Riikka Notkola

University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Abstract

HOME OF HEART is a short documentary 26' that tells a story of urbanized Namibians who miss their childhood homes in the harsh environment of North-Central Namibia (Ovamboland).

Ruben Shapwa has a good life in Windhoek, capital of Namibia, but also has a farm far away in the North. His dream is to move back one day at least for a retirement. Kandina is a young woman who gathers the strength for the first time to face the past and return back to a place once called home first time in 20 years. HOME OF HEART is a story of people travelling back to their roots. The story starts from Namibia, but by surprise ends in Finland where a long lost sister of Ruben is found.

Currently the mortality in Northern Namibia has dropped to the level before the HIV epidemic and similarly the fertility is increasing creating increasing population growth. It is estimated that Africa together with Namibia will double its population in 30 years. As conclusion the out-migration from The North-Central Namibia will remain as a way to cope with the scare environmental resources in the area.

HOME OF HEART shares positive stories of people seeking better life elsewhere than where they originally located. Truly speaking we all have history (or hearts) somewhere else than where we happen to be at this particular moment in life. This is an important message to remember also in politically changing Europe facing migrant crisis.