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## MEDIA RELEASE

**Ref:** No. 249

### Namibian talent praise O&L Mwenyopaleka Roadshow

**WINDHOEK, 13 July 2017**

The Ohlthaver & List (O&L) Group 2017 annual Mwenyopaleka Roadshow that reaches out to more than six thousand employees every year, recently celebrated another successful season. O&L Group Manager: Employee Engagement, Sonja Thieme says the employee engagement initiative continues to grow from strength to strength every year and attributes the successes to the full-on Namibian talent that always forms part of the annual event.

Significant about this much anticipated calendar event for the employees of the group, which is aimed at investing in the growth of O&L employees across the country, is that it at the same time is a platform that promotes Namibian talent and skills in line with the Group's purpose of 'Creating a future, Enhancing life'. As a result, every single talent that forms part of this roadshow is Namibian.

Actors that bring to life the values of the O&L Group through drama on the roadshow are led by Namibian veteran, Dr. Laurinda Olivier-Sampson - Senior lecturer in Drama, and Head of Department: Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Namibia (UNAM). Dr. Olivier-Sampson: "I joined the Mwenyopaleka team during its 3rd year (2006). The biggest contribution to me has been the opportunity to provide industry experience for my students. At the moment the industry is not strong enough to provide internships for Performing Arts students, and it has been a wonderful opportunity for these students to do an 'internship' with a dedicated team and a committed client. They have benefitted enormously and for that I am really thankful to O&L. The actors come away with a lot more confidence in themselves and their craft. I cannot emphasize enough how beneficial this project is to those who participate in it. The Mwenyopaleka project strengthens skills and empowers the artists to create opportunities for themselves. I can tell you that O&L is at the forefront of employee upliftment with the Mwenyopaleka roadshow. While the use of Industrial Theatre for industry is not a new concept, O&L is the only company in Namibia that fully utilizes the potential of Industrial Theatre. That to me shows breakthrough thinking on the part of the leaders."

On the production side of the roadshow, veteran and one of the most valued names in the field, dB Audio once again stepped on board for the 2017 Mwenyopaleka Roadshow. dB Audio Partner, Ernst Steynberg: "I speak on behalf of Team dB when I say that being involved with the Mwenyopaleka Roadshow has been a permanently enriching experience. It is such a pleasure to work on a project where one can wholeheartedly relate to the message being communicated. O&L's Purpose, Vision and Values are extremely inspiring and aligns perfectly with the corporate culture dB Audio Namibia is working towards. The messages being communicated is so easy for the production team to incorporate in their own lives, and that in turn spills over to the rest of our organization after the road show is over - indeed 'Creating a future, enhancing life'. Mwenyopaleka is also one of the largest corporate projects annually and it is a fantastic opportunity for the dB team to be able to conceptualize, design, engineer, plan and execute a project of this scale. We are extremely grateful at O&L for creating this opportunity - not only for us in the technical events industry, but also for the opportunities it creates for artists like

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actors, singers, dancers, MCs, photographers and Film Makers - to be able to grow in 'challenging' industries". Initially dB Audio stepped on board as technical support – sound, lights, stage, screens, etc. – but since 2013 dB Audio has also been involved in the concept development, event direction and backstage management.

The video production crew of this year's road show was under the leadership of **Lila Swanepoel** Productions. Lila Swanepoel has been producing video content for Mwenyopaleka since 2013. Born in Namibia, she obtained her National Diploma in Film and Video Technology from the Cinema and Television School, Tshwane University of Technology in South Africa. Her work on the international front include films such as Mad Max Fury Road (2012) where she was part of the 2016 Oscar Winning production design team; Lord of War (2005), and The Fall (2004). Swanepoel: "Mwenyopaleka just gets bigger and better every year and everyone involved has become one big family. The O&L Group values compare directly with my values in life which makes the Mwenyopaleka experience extra special. It has enriched my life on so many different levels, but most importantly it gives me the opportunity to empower young up-and-coming talent of the Namibian Film and TV Industry whom I take under my wing and mentor during the Mwenyopaleka Roadshow. This opportunity provides them with unparalleled work experience and industry exposure and ties in directly with the O&L purpose 'Creating a future, enhancing life', and value 'We Grow People'. This year O&L granted me the opportunity to hand-pick and welcome two very talented young Namibian crew members to the 2017 Video Production Team. The camera crew consisted of Nafimane Jonas and Barry Mawonga who both are past and current students at the College of The Arts (COTA)."

For renowned photographer, **Willem Vrey** 2017 was his third year as the official photographer for the Mwenyopaleka Roadshow. Vrey: "I have to say that this is by far the best production that I have ever worked on from a team-member perspective. Not only is it simply a fun experience to get to travel around the country with such a diverse and professional team of people, but it also feels really good to be part of something that honestly does good for its target audience. I didn't know much about O&L before becoming part of this team, but what I have learned about the O&L values and the fairness and respect with which the group treats its employees has been an eye-opener. I also love how we are able to get really complex ideas and concepts across to such a large and diverse group of people in a fun and engaging way without the audience ever being patronized or spoken down to - which is a massively impressive feat that only an organization that really cares about and understand its culture and employees would be able to pull off. I also have to mention that the organizing team from O&L Centre is simply the single most professional and well-oiled group of people working on any production of this sort in the country, and it's been a massive honor to be part of it. So thank you very much O&L for bringing me along this adventurous ride!"

Namibian songbird and actress, **Lize Ehlers** was the Master of Ceremonies (MC)/host of the 2017 Mwenyopaleka Roadshow. Ehlers: "The Mwenyopaleka Roadshow has truly opened my eyes to what a difference living and leading your company's, and own values can make. Working towards a vision completely changes one's perspective of passion and input, as well as the journey itself. And then of course, the 'purpose' just glues it all together. The entire show, people, execution and journey was a highly educational yet entertaining experience. I saw the employees/ambassadors realizing things they might have taken for granted before. What a positive reality."

Dancer and choreographer, **Angus William Jobs**, better known by his stage name '**Angelo**' says the 2017 Mwenyopaleka Roadshow was a learning experience for him. Angelo: "As a hip-hop dancer and choreographer, the roadshow afforded me a lot of exposure while enjoying a perfect platform to see and experience the land of the brave. The Mwenyopaleka Roadshow is motivational and educational, and inspires not only the O&L employees but everyone who is part of this magnificent journey! This year's roadshow was indeed an incredible experience. As for the dance sector it opened doors in ways

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which I never thought possible. The possibilities out there in Namibia are endless as the audience is very welcoming.”

**-Ends**

The O&L Group 2017 annual Mwenyopaleka Roadshow that reaches out to more than six thousand employees every year, recently celebrated another successful season. The success of this annual roadshow is attributed to the full-on Namibian cast and crew, which is at the same time a platform that promotes Namibian talent and skills in line with the Group’s purpose of ‘Creating a future, Enhancing life’.



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