

SHATHO TIBONE

Filmmaker| Documentary Director| Social Activist

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my interest in employment opportunities within your organisation that align with my practice as a filmmaker, documentary director, and social justice advocate working across Southern Africa.

For over twelve years, I have built a multidisciplinary career using film as both a creative practice and a tool for social intervention. My work spans documentary filmmaking, television production, commercial and corporate content creation, videography, sound engineering, and post-production. Across these disciplines, I have consistently focused on producing powerful visual narratives that not only inform and inspire, but also contribute to real-world awareness, engagement, and social change.

At the core of my practice is a commitment to working directly with communities—particularly indigenous populations, rural communities, and vulnerable groups whose lived experiences are often excluded from mainstream media and institutional decision-making spaces. I do not approach storytelling as observation alone, but as engagement. My work is rooted in field immersion, trust-building, and long-term relationships with communities, with the intention of ensuring that storytelling translates into visibility, dignity, and meaningful attention from institutions and the public.

My first independent feature documentary, *I'm Khoisan, Not Coloured*, remains a defining foundation of my career. Produced over five years and entirely self-funded, the film explores identity, dispossession, structural violence, and belonging within Khoisan communities in South Africa. It required extensive fieldwork in informal settlements and historically marginalised areas, often under challenging conditions. Beyond its release, the documentary has been widely screened, and discussed within universities and academic institutions, where it continues to contribute to anthropology, decolonial studies, land discourse, and indigenous rights education.

In Botswana, I expanded this work through a commissioned documentary series supported by the FNB Foundation on the national crisis of gender-based violence. Over the course of production, I travelled across thirteen rural and urban communities, documenting lived realities while engaging survivors, activists, traditional leadership structures, and policy stakeholders. This work went beyond documentation; it created space for dialogue, reflection, and public awareness, and was broadcast nationally, contributing to ongoing conversations around prevention and social intervention.

Alongside my documentary and advocacy work, I have also worked extensively in television commercials and corporate storytelling environments. These projects required discipline, precision, and collaboration within structured production systems, while maintaining creative integrity and clear communication with clients and stakeholders. This dual experience—working between grassroots communities and corporate production environments—has strengthened my ability to adapt storytelling for different objectives without compromising depth, quality, or authenticity.

However, my long-term intention extends beyond production alone. I am actively seeking opportunities within organisations that are directly engaged in social development, community upliftment, and intervention-based initiatives. My goal is not only to document social issues, but to be part of teams that create visible, tangible impact on the ground—whether through media, training programmes, skills transfer, youth development, or community-based storytelling initiatives that leave lasting capacity within the communities themselves.

I have spent significant time working across the Cape Flats and the Kalahari region, building sustained relationships with communities affected by inequality, exclusion, and systemic neglect. These experiences have reinforced my belief that storytelling must be connected to action, and that media practitioners have a responsibility to contribute meaningfully to social transformation beyond the screen.

I am driven by a clear purpose: to use film, media, and communication not only as tools of representation, but as instruments of change that support real interventions in communities. I am particularly interested in expanding this work across Africa and globally through partnerships with organisations that share this vision of impact-driven storytelling and development-oriented practice.

I am currently seeking employment opportunities where I can contribute my skills, experience, and commitment to socially engaged storytelling within a structured organisation that prioritises both narrative and measurable social impact.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss how my background can contribute meaningfully to your organisation's mission and community-focused initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

Shatho Tibone

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