

For immediate release:

Lesotho: Action and Results, the 2016 SADC Protocol@Work summit moving ahead to Post 2015 SADC Gender Protocol and Sustainable Development Goals.

QUICK FACTS:

Quick facts:

- **79** participants – **52** Female, **27** male
- **68** entries - women and **25** men, from **43** categories
- **1** Female and **5** male runner ups
- **7** female and **1** male winners
- **5** organisations represented
- **50** councils represented
- **1** faith based organisations represented
- **4** media houses represented

Maseru 29 November 2016: The Lesotho SADC Protocol @ Work Summit under the theme ***50/50 by 2030! Empower women, End Violence*** which ran for two days of highly informative presentations was closed with the award ceremony to recognise outstanding presentations of good practices.

Gender Links, in partnership with and SADC Gender Protocol Alliance members organised the annual awards that brought together around 79 participants from the 50 local councils from the ten districts of Lesotho. It also brought on board None Governmental Organisations who also took part in different categories. The summit 2016 Lesotho summit was supported by DIFID SA.

The summit was held a few days after the launch of the Sixteen Days of activism Against Gender Based Violence on Women and Girls. The 2016 Summit theme also spoke to the 16 days. The official opening of the summit focused on the theme for sixteen days for the country and the world at large. Various partners gave a statement during the official opening including the Local Councils, Government Ministries and Alliance partners. It was at this occasion that the GMPS study was launched.

The award ceremony was filled with song and dance as winners were presented with certificates for the outstanding performances in many different categories. The judges gave participants feedback on their presentations and encouraged them to continue with the good work that they had presented. They complimented councils for the improvement that they have shown on their presentations over the years. Most of the councils have bought into the idea of documenting their evidence as this is very crucial for supporting their presentations.

The Gender Links Country Manager, Mantebheleng Mabetha, launched the [Sunrise Campaign](#) following a speech by one of the emerging entrepreneurs Tsepiso Mpofu. Mpofu stated that she had been abused since her childhood and the abuse had affected her so much that she even looked older than her age. "Most people used to call me granny but as you can see I look young and beautiful now". She gave a very powerful speech encouraging all to work hard towards turning their lives around and making it meaningful. Since meeting with GL, Mpofu has turned

her life around and is now a proud business owner who supplies all the local businesses with the fresh vegetables daily. The Sunrise Campaign seeks to expand the entrepreneurs programme through public giving to change a life and break the cycle of violence. GL prides itself in seeing the women being developed to a point of being able to take control of their lives. The participants can help in raising funds to help support the emerging entrepreneurs by making pledges online and by visiting Gender Links office. The fund will benefit not only Lesotho but other 9 countries with the entrepreneurship program.

The occasion was thrilled by the high media presence at both the opening and the award giving ceremony and that increased the GL Lesotho visibility in the country.

For more information visit the Gender Links www.genderlinks.org.za

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