

Centres of Excellence stage 6 report

Country: Lesotho
Council: Qomoqomong Community Council
Date: 19-20 July 2011

Synopsis

This is a report on gender capacity building and campaign running workshop for local government election women candidates. The workshop took place on the *19-20 July 2011* in *Qomoqomong Community Council, Quthing district*. See workshop programme at *Annex A* and participants list at *Annex B* respectively. Following dissolution of councils in preparation for the country's second local government election, GL's Centres of Excellence for Gender Mainstreaming in Local Government project was taken further to build capacity and enhance political empowerment of potential women running for office in this election.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Ground potential women candidates on gender concepts.
- Assist participants in understanding the link between issues of gender and governance.
- Provide an outlook on the position of women in politics.
- Explain the electoral law and procedures for allocation of special seats for women.
- Enhance communication skills including campaign running.

Background

Even though Lesotho is generally rated highest as one of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries that has seen advancement in filling an inequality gap between women and men, more still needs to be done to stimulate interest, ensure representation and participation of women into decision-making structures at all levels of governance. With 58% women in local government in the last election, it is crucial that government, political parties; development parties and civil society organisations put together efforts aimed at ensuring that the high number of women in local government is retained. Secondly, to promote the SADC Gender protocol target of 50% women in decision making by 2015 through mounting the region's 50/50 women in decision-making campaign.



LG election candidates

At the beginning of 2011, the parliament of Lesotho accepted amendments made to the Local Government Election Act, 2004 and in so doing; the parliament endorsed the Local Government Election (Amendment) Act, 2011 which introduces 30% special seats for women in local government to counter for the long-debated 30% legislated quota through reservation of seats. Through these additional seats, it is yet to be seen whether afore mentioned 58% of women in local government will be attained in the October 2011 local elections.

Activities

Modules:

A set of modules discussed at the workshop included key gender concepts, gender and governance through exploration of the 'access, participation and transformation model' as well as communication skills and strategies. Programme attached at *Annex A*. It has been observed that not all women have previously been exposed to gender trainings, dialogues or public meetings and as a result, an understanding of gender as a subject matter, equal rights and equity puts individual women at different platforms and varying advantage level points. Hence it was important to first commence the workshop with exercises and discussions around gender related concepts to help participants better understand its meaning and see it apply in their family, social, economic and political life. Gender has been a complex issue to comprehend particularly in culturally bound communities, therefore grounding women candidates in this, would help facilitate further information sharing and education to other people not present at the workshop.

Legal education:

On the same note, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Voter Educator gave a presentation on allocation of the proposed 30% additional seats for women in local government. The presentation included guidelines on what is expected of candidates during elections. For example, issues around code of conduct by candidates and electorates etc. This raised a lot of interest as some of the candidates were not even aware of the newly proposed provision, what it meant and how those seats would then be allocated. Participants were equipped with new knowledge and information that could be used further to scale up their political campaign.



Mpho Marathane, IEC voter educator

Campaign strategy:

By going through communication skills and strategy exercises together, participants were introduced to various means of engaging in a political campaign in an effective and efficient way. For instance, public speaking skills and media engagement through role plays. In coming up with campaigns, they identified and prioritised key social issues, developed slogans; decided on action points, communication approach and partnerships. At the end of the workshop, the participants had an opportunity to draft their own profiles and give video interviews.

Outcomes

- Better understanding of gender concepts.
- Clarity on issues of governance, politics and women's role as candidates and voters.
- Elevated energy to take up campaigning and solicit political support.
- Enhanced collaborative networks between IEC, Department of Gender and GL.
- Plans on follow up to ensure backstopping.
- Writing ability.
- Designing political campaigns.

Outputs

- Profile pictures and videos.
- Practice in profile writing.
- Campaign strategy.
- Diary keeping.

Way forward

Candidates were to seek approval and support from their respective political parties in running campaigns ahead of local government election. GL and the Department of Gender would backstop activities to be carried out by candidates in the spirit of raising their campaigns high.

Annex A:

PROGRAMME

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	WHO
Day 1:		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	All
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome and objectives	GL
9:30 – 10:30	Section 1: Key gender concepts - Sex, gender, gender equality	GL/MGYSR
10:30 - 11:00	TEA	
11:00 – 12:00	Section 2: SADC Protocol on gender and development - Protocol quiz - SADC DVD	GL
12:00 - 13:00	- Group work and report back	
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00 – 15:00	Section 3: Where are women in Lesotho politics? - Fact sheets - Southern Africa context	GL/MGYSR
15:00 – 15:30	TEA	
15:30 – 17:00	Section 4: Access, participation and transformation <i>Group work and feedback:</i> - Access (quotas, internalising oppression) - Participation (leadership attributes) - Transformation (leadership, transformative leadership)	GL/IEC
Day 2:		
8:30 – 9:00	Recap	
9:00 – 10:30	Section 4: Access, participation and transformation (continues) <i>Group work and feedback:</i> - Access (quotas, internalising oppression) - Participation (leadership attributes) - Transformation (leadership, transformative leadership) - Gender sensitive scorecard	
10.30 - 11.00	TEA	
11.00 - 13.00	Section 5: Communication skills and strategies - Communication - Profiles - Campaigns and debates	GL/MGYSR
13.00 - 14.00	LUNCH	

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	WHO
14.00 - 15.00	Section 5: Communication skills and strategies - Communication - Profiles - Campaigns and debates	
15:00 – 15:30	TEA	
15:30 – 16:30	General discussions around own issues, experiences, etc.	All

Annex B:

COE stage 6
Venue: Qomoqomong Community Council
Date: 19-20 July 2011

	NAME	SEX M/F	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	PHONE	FAX	E MAIL
1.	Makhosi Mosenene	F	A.B.C	Candidate	59539911		
2.	Mamohapi Letsie	F	B.N.P	Candidate	58589395		
3.	Mamosotho Mosotho	F	A.B.C	Candidate	63144564		
4.	Mamojalefa Phera	F	Khutsong	Manager	59119789		
5.	Masammuel Mosenene	F	L.C.D	Candidate	57029760		
6.	Malintle Makhetha	F	Imatlafatseng	Member	63260939		
7.	Moitheri Letsie	F	Poverty Fighter	Treasurer	63702492		
8.	Mamorapeli Kabeli	F	Bakoena G.C	Business	63227634		
9.	Mathuso Lekata	F	Lekata G.C	Business	58423337		
10.	Manthatisi Letsosa	F	A.B.C	Candidate	63130187		
11.	Mathapelo Mokapi	F	Qomo-Qomong L.E.C	Church leader	59713116		
12.	Mapoloko Tsemame	F	Lesitoe Keng Bacha	Chairperson	59039443		
13.	Mapitso Phera	F	B.N.P	Candidate	5921461		
14.	Makemelo Moseme	F	B.N.P	Candidate	59754056		
15.	Mamashapho Nkuebe	F	CARE	Member	58035301		
16.	Makhotsofalang	F	CARE	Member	63201943		
17.	Makopanang Mosenene	F	B.N.P	Candidate	63114540		
18.	Moipone Letsie	F	Bolahla	Youth rep.	59936214		
19.	'Matsepo Mofosi	F	B.N.P	Candidate	58604527		
20.	Mapuseletso Rapeane	F	St. Peters Acc.	Representative			
21.	Mamojalefa Jonase	F	L.C.D	Candidate			
22.	Maneo Kompfi	F	L.C.D	candidate			
23.	Mameriana Fokotsane	F	Koparasi	Member	28750240		
24.	Mapapali Pita	F	Lehokela				
25.	Mamphapang Tsinosi	F	GO3				
26.	Mapaseka Mosenene	F	GO3				