

## FLOW COUNCILCASE STUDY

### Key data

<b>COUNTRY 58</b>	<b>Namibia</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>Otavi Town Council</b>
<b>WHY SELECTED</b>	Best case/ supportive
<b>COUNCIL ASSESSMENT SCORE – FLOW</b>	75
<b>LATEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT COE SCORE</b>	58
<b>Women in the Council</b>	Total women;(2) total council 7members 30% women
<b>WHO INTERVIEWED</b>	Local Economic Development & Community Service Officer
Researcher/ writer	Sarry Xoagus-Eises GLN and Chief Executive Officer



**Title:** Said the Mayor of the Town Markus Damaseb, "men must not see women as their enemies but partners in life therefore we must take care and love them as equal partners"

### Background

The Otavi Town Council is administered under the Local Authorities Act, Act 23 of 1992 as amended. It is administered by the Council, hereby referred to as the highest decision making body of the Otavi Town Council. They are elected by the Otavi Constituency (residents) they are as follows: Mr. Markus Damaseb (Mayor), Mrs. LotteHengombe (Deputy Mayor), Mr. Gaus Mumbalu (Chairperson – Management Committee), Mrs. Martha Shipanga (Deputy Chair – MC), Mr. Timotheus Mwatinghimunhu (Councillor), Mr. Simson Auchab (Councillor) Mr. Mbukamuna Kuzatjike (Councillor), Mr. Moses Matyayi (CEO), and Mr. Jacques Mutjavikua (Manager: Technical Services) Otavi Town Council is in the central region Otjozondjupa and it is 367 km drive from the Capital city Windhoek. The Town has about 5500 residents in the local authority area and about 12 000 in its constituency. Otavi's economy relies on industrial, Mining and Agricultural Sectors. Otavi Town Council has been in GL COE for three years. In the past years Council has performs extremely well in gender mainstreaming and scope the third place in central regional forum. Council has scored over 70% in last year performance.

Otavi Town Council management (top Leadership) support GenderLinks Namibia projects. It is on this background that Council budget for gender links activities every year. Council provides venue free of charge whenever there is a Gender links seminar or activity. Council also support the women textile project in Otavi and will assist them to expand to laundering services as well by providing them the dry cleaning machines. Gender focal person and



Figure 118days meach, "Take back thr Night'

Councillor always attend to gender workshop to sensitize women to take ownership of their position in life. Council through its Local Economic Development & Community Service Officer identify targeted group of women to help assist them with projects. Council also help them to participate in different workshop to up their knowledge. Some of the women attend community Development Community meetings and council meetings to listen whether the issue affecting them are also address. Council support to the entrepreneurs is great. Council provide venues to entrepreneurs whereby they only paid electricity for usage. Council through its stakeholders in development give entrepreneurs all kinds of trainings such as Business Management, IT, Financial Management trainings etc. Council also provide them with equipment's. Otavi Town Council assist survivals to open up their projects account by assist. Town Council also help registering entrepreneurs in different Expo and Festivals to display their products. The Otavi Council always is creating access to useful information eg on financing and other information meant for the community. Council through its LED Officer identify Ministries, CBOs, NGOs and private individuals to assist women financially or materially. Council also help marketing the products of the project to different business and government ministries and tourism sectors. Otavi Town Council recently lobby for assistance from Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare to support women project in Otavi materially. So much changes has taken place at the Council as result of the projects introduced by GLN. Otavi Town Council is fully gender sensitive and employed women in senior position. Council has Health Practitioner and Town Planner. Council fully fight against Gender base Violence and support women projects. As a result council support women to start with textile project to empower them economically and to up-lift their social status. These help women not to depend solely on their male counterparts but to look after themselves.

There are many projects that can be replicated in other towns. Council has adopted the fifty- fifty representation ever since Gender Links involvement. More females are been employed in senior position. The numbers of awareness campaigns has been run on GBV, Gender Equality, HIV Aids and women empowerment issues. Council develop policies and action plans. Otavi Town Council is looking forward to work with GL/GLN to strengthen current status of women involvement in the town.

#### **Working with partners at local, national, regional and international level, GL:**

- Promotes gender equality in and through the media, and in all areas of governance.
- Develops policies and action plans to ensure that gender equality is achieved, especially at the local level.

- Builds the capacity of women, men and all citizens to engage critically in democratic processes that advance equality and justice.
- Conducts campaigns for ending gender violence, HIV and AIDS, economic and climate justice and the rights of marginalised groups.

This mission is achieved through a strong commitment to **results** that includes:

- Evidence gathered through conducting research to identify gender gaps.
- Lobbying and advocacy using mainstream and new media.
- Developing action plans in participative ways that bring together a broad cross section of partners in learning that is applied and supported on-the-job.
- Establishing partnerships for the furtherance of GL goals with governments, NGOs, Community and Faith Based Organisations.
- Creating synergies to sustain the work.
- Monitoring and evaluating progress using appropriate regional and international instruments.
- Learning, knowledge creation and innovation.
- Ensuring value for money – economy, efficiency and effectiveness – in all GL’s undertakings.
- Fund raising at country and regional level, including maintaining a diverse portfolio of funders and income generating activities through the GL income generating units.
- Enhancing institutional effectiveness: staff growth and development; efficient and effective use of IT, the purchase and maintenance of physical assets and an enabling environment for work and wellness.

