

***Annex A: Stage 1 - Report form: Briefing with Political heads and Management***

**Country: Namibia**  
**Report by: Namibia Country Manager**  
**Town: Berseba Village Council**  
**Date of meeting: 24 September 2012**

**Attendance: All 5 Councillors and two senior staff**

| <b>NAME</b>           | <b>M/F</b> | <b>DESIGNATION</b>      | <b>PHONE</b> | <b>FAX</b> | <b>EMAIL</b>                 |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------|------------------------------|
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| Jesya Haman           | <b>M</b>   | Berseba village council | 0812383161   | 063257045  |                              |

|              |          |             |
|--------------|----------|-------------|
| <b>F</b>     | <b>4</b> |             |
| <b>M</b>     | <b>3</b> |             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>100%</b> |
|              |          |             |

### **Buy-in to proceed with 'centre of excellence' process obtained?**

The Council and Gender Links Namibia meeting was attended by all 5 councillors with their senior staff, the Village Secretary and deputy finance manager. The gender focal person and champion were also present who made the political buy-in a smooth process.

Gender Links Namibia Country manager briefed the Council and staff about the processes of the Centre of Excellence for gender mainstreaming in Local Authorities from stages 1-10. These stages were explained stage by stage for better understanding of the process. The issue of how to cascade the COE Module process has topped the agenda of the meeting as well.

### **Access to conduct a situation analysis obtained?**

Access to conduct the situational analysis was not as difficult as some of the Councillors have benefited from Gender Links' meetings. The GFP and the GC were trained recently in Windhoek at a ToT workshop on how to assist Gender Links in cascading the COEs in Local Authorities with in targeted towns and Villages. The Chairperson of the Village Council Hon Christina Isaaks of Berseba said "this is a golden opportunity not to be missed" adding that they welcome GL Namibia's initiative to include this Village Council to form part of the implementation of the COEs here. This Village Council has always wanted to be part of this process even before GL Namibia came to Berseba. They learnt about GL during the 55<sup>th</sup> Congress of ALAN a year ago where the GL office presented the COE concept to delegates. Now that you are here "let the process unfold itself" she concluded

### **Strength:**

This Village Council has the potential to host the COEs, but needs regular. The 5 Councillors are willing to kick start the process if necessary capacity and skills are developed for them which will happen from stages 3-5 Modules that will follow after this meeting next.

### **Challenges**

The challenges faced by this Villages Council are not unique. Financial constraint is one such big problem for councils at this level. Village councils heavily depend on the Central government for capital projects which in this category the COEs does not fall into. But the Council has committed themselves to this process and will honour it as said by the Chairperson, Hon Christina Isaaks.