

Centres of Excellence stage 6 report

Country: Lesotho
Council: Senekane Community Council
Date: 08-09 June 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 *08-09 June 2011* in *Senekane Community Council, Berea 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.



'Marethabile Moshane, candidate



'Maphetha Thabane, candidate

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.

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.

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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: Senekane Community Council
Date: 08-09 June 2011

| | NAME | SEX M/F | ORGANISATION | DESIGNATION | PHONE | FAX | E MAIL |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. | Mamoko Khereng | F | ABC | Candidate | | | |
| 2. | Malehlohonolo Ts'oeu | F | BAC | Candidate | | | |
| 3. | 'Maphoka khoabai | F | Bethany H.C | Counsellor | 58145407 | | |
| 4. | Mataelo Ntlaloe | F | Mokoallong L.E.C | Church leader | | | |
| 5. | Malimemane Ramoloi | F | Botlokotsebe | Member | | | |
| 6. | Maletlama Nkoe | F | R.C.C | Church leader | 59749257 | | |
| 7. | Mathato Maphalane | F | BCP | Candidate | | | |
| 8. | M. Matsumunyane | F | Senekene C.C | C.C.S DO8 | 62099413 | | |
| 9. | Mosenyehi | F | Senekene C.C | Accounts clerk | 59441768 | | |
| 10. | Mampho Molise | F | Kopanang Litsakajoe | Chairperson | | | |
| 11. | Mandloru Teba | F | Paballong H.C | Member | 58500212 | | |
| 12. | Glaufinr Seeiso | F | Paballong H. C | Member | | | |
| 13. | Lineo Thane | F | BNP | Candidate | | | |
| 14. | Mathabiso Seseana | F | Paballong H. c | Member | 62007070 | | |
| 15. | Manthati Sennane | F | LCD | Candidate | | | |
| 16. | Maphetha Thabane | F | LCD | Candidate | | | |
| 17. | M. Moloji | F | Senekane C.C | Clerical Assistant | 63204386 | | |
| 18. | Marelebohile Moshane | F | LCD | Candidate | | | |