

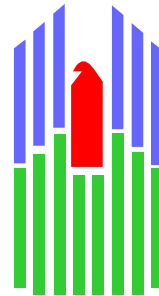
STAGES5 MEETING WITH WITVLEI VILLAGE COUNCIL REPORT

Date: 7th Feb 2011

VENUE: Witvlei Council chambers



Group photo with New Councillors of Witvlei Village Council.



PARTNERS IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

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Executive Summary

This is a report on the proceedings of the Centres of Excellence for Gender Mainstreaming in Local Government stage three workshops held from 6-8 Sept 2010 at the Council Hall.

The purpose of the programme was to;

- Build participants understanding around key gender concepts
- To empower participants around personal empowerment
- Build capacity around issues of gender, democracy and good governance
- Look at what makes good leaders through looking at transformative leadership
- Look at key concepts like gender policy and planning concepts
- Assist participants in understanding the importance and synergies around gender, the economy and budgets
- Develop a Local Gender Action Plan
- Develop a Local 365 Day Gender Violence Action Plan
- Popularise the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.
- Establish communication strategies for the GBV action plans.
- Inform councils about the collection of good practices for addressing GBV at the local level and in the Gender Justice and Local Government Summit.
- Assist councils in seeing the importance of making IT and the media work for them
- And empowering women leaders around the Media Literacy tools.

See the full workshop programme attached at **Annex A**.

The briefing meeting was attended by five Councilors and acting Chief Executive Office. In total 6 participants (3 men and 3 women); see **Annex B** for the full workshop participants list.

Background

In 2003, GL undertook the first comprehensive study of the impact of women in politics in Southern Africa. One of the key findings of "*Ringling up the Changes, Gender in Politics in Southern Africa*" was that local government is a sadly neglected area of the gender and governance discourse. Taking heed of this finding, GL conducted groundbreaking research in 2006/2007, *At the Coalface, Gender and Local Government* covering South Africa, Lesotho, Mauritius and Namibia.

A key finding of this study was that few practical steps have been taken to mainstream gender in this tier of government or to build the capacity of councillors to lead this process. The study has since been extended to nine countries. In terms of process, once the research reports have been written up, GL hosts launch and strategy workshops in the respective countries with key stakeholders and partners, ideally the local government associations of that particular country to map out a way forward of how to roll out the strategy and host Gender and GBV action plan workshops.

In 2009, GL embarked on a study in Zimbabwe on women's representation and participation in local government to assess the conditions necessary to increase the representation of women in local government in Southern Africa, and to ensure their effective participation.

In March 2010 GL convened the first Gender Justice and Local Government Summit and Awards to gather evidence of institutional and individual initiatives to empower women and end gender violence. The recommendations of this event informed the need for councils to become Centres of Excellence for Gender Mainstreaming in Local Government to ensure that Councils have the necessary and support to address issues of gender across all spheres.

Process and activities

The 1-day workshop was a briefing for the new Councilors on Genderlinks projects since 2007. To make matter worse none of these Councilors except the Chairperson participated on in some of the GL workshops.

The Witvlei Village Council is one such Council who has completed all seven stages of COE. The workshop, stage 5 was the only remaining stage to zeal the historic chapter of completion of the COE. When the news was brought to the new Council, it was happiness. They thanked GL and team



SXE addressing New Councilors at Witvlei Village

for assisting the Village to be on the same footing with big Councils in the country. Although resources are the main challenge for implementation, the Council hope all GL programmes will be monitored and evaluated for implementation as soon as they take the ownership of all policies and projects at the Council. There were lots of

question posed by the new Council in the implementation process. The first one was the sustainability of these project which were introduced with good intentions. The other was how to strengthen the Gender Champion as she is a full time employee. The Champion is now an Acting CEO making very difficult to give the necessary attention to issues of a gender nature.

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Outcomes

That the Witvlei Village Council has promised to implement the GL projects introduced by GL since 2007-2011. Council has taken ownership there.

Challenges

- That the Council is new and need to study all documents of the previous Council for better understand and to take ownership of all projects introduced by Genderlinks at the Village Council.



New Councilors:Witvlei Village Council

- Although Genderlinks country facilitator has sent some of the documents in time it has reached the Council only received a day before the 7th meeting. This has put the Council on an awkward position for input in e.g the Situation Analyses report, the GAP, GBV Action Plan and the COE Plan of Action.
- These documents are huge and need enough time to peruse and take decision in this regard
- Council cannot implement something that they do not understand how these Action Plans were drawn up and what it means for the Council in terms of taking ownership.
- The Action Plans are big documents, posing a bigger challenge to the new Council.
- They would like to see inter ships between Council with similar GL projects to exchange visits and share experiences and best practices.

Way Forward

Since the Council did not participate from stages 1-7, there is a need for a workshop a workshop especially on Action Plan for smooth implementation.

A workshop with new Councilors on all Projects introduced by GL at the Village Council.

Like to see a ToT training at the Village to continue with GL programming, for sustainability carry over purposes. This they say would not haven been necessary for GL to come back and train new Councilors.

The Councils to be trained in finance and gender budgeting as a priority above all.

END

Annex A:PROGRAMME

Meeting Councils for briefs by Genderlinks Country Facilitator:

7th Feb 2010

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	WHO
Day one 7th Feb 2011		
09:00 – 09:10	Registration	GL
09:10 – 09:20	Opening	Village Chairperson
8:45 – 09:15	Introductions and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide background information on various projects introduced like GAP, GBV,COE to Rehoboth Town Council since 2007 	GL
Presentation COE Concepts		
9:15 – 10:15	Over all Objectives	GL
Presentation Situation Analyses Report		
10:15 – 11:00	Presenting report with HR Manager Engagement with Council on report for input	GL/HR
11:00 – 11:30	Plan of Action presentation-GAP,GBV Action Plan & COR roll out GBV	Group
11:30 – 12:00	Way forward	GL
17:00	CLOSURE	

Annex B: List of participants

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Date: 7th February 2011

NAME	Sex M/F	ORGANISATION	PHONE	FAX	E MAIL
MagdalenaMurangi	F	Witvlei Village Council	0812982814	062-570375	
Anton Ganeb	M	Witvlei Village Council	0816841867	062-570375	
Immanuel Koiseb	M	Witvlei Village Council	0816205773	062-570375	
David Nuule	M	Witvlei Village Council	0812696143	062-570375	
Livey Van Wyk	F	Witvlei Village Council	0811477051		Livey.van.wyk@hotmail.com
Miriam Kamatjipose	F	Witvle Village Council	0812803441		miriamkamatjipose@yahoo.com

Females	3	
Males	3	
TOTAL	6	100

Way Forward

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- The Councils to be trained in finance and gender budgeting as a priority above all.