

STAGE SIX ADOPTION OF ACTION PLAN AND SIGNING OF STATEMENT REPORT

**Country: Swaziland
Council: Vuvulane Town Board**

**Dates: 25 July 2012
Venue: Vuvulane Social Centre**



LTB Mayor Mr Mbabazeni Matsenjwa exchanging the signed documents with Ncane Maziya GL Country Manager



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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 6 adoption of the action plan and signing statement of commitment held at Vuvulane Town Board held at the Vuvulane social center on the 25th, July 2012.

The purpose of the programme was to;

Adopt and sign the statement on the listed below:

- Completing all ten stages of the COE process.
- Ensuring gender balance and sensitivity within the Council.
- Ensuring that women in the Council and in the Community actively participate in all decision-making processes.
- Integrating gender into the planning, monitoring and evaluation systems of Councils.
- Ensuring gender balance and sensitivity in the services delivered by the Council.
- Promoting flagship programmes on ending gender violence; empowering women; gender and climate change, local economic development and care work.
- Building the gender analysis and programming skills of Councillors and staff.
- Establishing a sustainable Gender Management System, including human and financial resources for this purpose.
- Allocating specific budgetary resources for promoting gender equality.
- Ensuring that women and men benefit equally from all Council expenditure.
- Administering the Gender and Local Government score card at least once a year to benchmark progress.
- Documenting in multimedia formats the difference that gender awareness makes to the work of the Council.
- Sharing good practices at the annual Gender Justice and Local Government Summit.
- Sharing experiences with, and assisting neighbouring Councils that join the COE process.

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

The event was attended by councilors, staff and management of Vuvulane Town Board see full participants list at **Annex B**

Photos – 5

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25889

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25913

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25916

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25919

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25922

http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25958

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 "*Ringing 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 ten 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. The launches are then followed by Gender and GBV action plan workshops that are held at a provincial, regional or district, level to ensure that all councils have gender action plans.

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 support to address issues of gender across all spheres.

Welcome and Opening

The event was opened by the Chairperson Mr. Norman Magwaza who welcomed councilors, staff and Gender Links. He explained that Vuvulane Town Board has started working with Gender Links last year (2011) and the two organisations have a very good relationship. He further said today's event is so important in that the town is fully committing itself on adopting and implementing the action plan.

He then introduced Gender Links Country Manager, Ncane Maziya and requested her to take the over and proceed with the program.

Processes and activities

The 2 hours adoption and signing of statement of commitment involved the commitment of Vuvulane Town Board to contributing towards achieving the targets of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development. To this end the material makes use of discussions and adopts the action plan by signing of the statement.

The GL Country Manager in her remarks thanked the participants for showing commitment for attending such an important event. She elaborated on the purpose of the adoption of the action plan and signing of the statement of commitment that is a follow up from the stages the council has covered and that today the council is committing itself for implementing the activities from the action plan they developed.

Hard copies of the statement of commitment were distributed to the councilors, staff and management members. The contents of the statement of commitment were read through and participants confirmed understanding them.

There were questions raised on what will happen if the town signs the statement of commitment and does not live up to expectations, for instance in event the budget of the town is impossible to accomplish what needs to be done.

The country manager explained that GL and the council will come together and administer a scorecard verification which will highlight what could not be implemented and why, thus where possible GL may come in and support the council on such issues, e.g capacity building.

Another question was that what will happen in event other councillors get into office, and the councillors who are well versed in the GL and gender issues are no longer in office. GL country manager explained that through the Training of Trainers exercise, GL will train focal persons who will in turn train those new in office as by the nature of them being with AMICAALL are bound or highly likely to be there in the next term of office of the councillors, new or old. Another way would be for GL to come and assist such focal persons where need be. Lastly new councillors are usually trained before entering office thus GL may as well use the opportunity of this induction process to train the new councillors.

A number of questions were raised by participants touching on issues of the upcoming Local Government elections and if ever there is an activity that GL would do to empower women who would like to stand for elections. In her response the CM explained that GL Swaziland has opted for a 50/50 campaign that encourages equal participation of both females and males in the elections.

Outputs

The signing of the statement of commitment commenced, with the Mayor Mr. Norman Magwaza first to sign, followed by the Town Clerk Mr. Justice Qwabe and lastly Ncane Maziya Gender Links country manager.

After signing, there was an exchange of the statements of commitment between the Mayor and the GL country manager in inclination from the audience as a sign of appreciation to the decent attempt to end gender inequality in the running and management of Vuvulane Town Board.

Outcomes

Vuvulane Town Board has committed to become a fully-fledged COE and understands the importance of gender mainstreaming through adoption of Action Plan and signing of the Statement of Commitment.

Next steps

Committed to implement the action plan and popularize the SADC Protocol and sensitize the communities on gender equality. To try empower more women participation in leadership and decision making positions.

Closing

Mayor Magwaza in closing thanked Gender Links team once again for a wonderful presentation and especially the stage of the signing of the statement of commitment. He encouraged Gender Links to continue the good work, up to the Tinkhundla (Constituencies) where issues of GBV are rife due to poverty and lack of education. Mr Magwaza then thanked his team of councillors and staff for such a short and informative session defying time odds that almost never let happen of such an important event.

Annex A: Programme

**SIGNING OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENT STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT
VUVULANE TOWN BOARD
26 JULY 2012**

PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Who
13 JULY 2012		
10.00 – 10.05	Registration	Gender Links
10:05-10:15	Welcome and Introduction	CEO – Justice Qwabe
10.15 – 10:20	Opening	Vuvulane Town – Mayor
10:20-11:00	Adding new modules to Old Action Plan	Participants
11:20 -11:45	Objectives	Gender Links
1200hrs	Adoption and Signing of Statement of Commitment	Mayor, CEO and GL
12:10	Closing	Vuvulane Town Board - Mayor
<i>REFRESHMENTS!!!</i>		

(Annex B: Participants list)

SIGNING OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENT STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Country: Swaziland

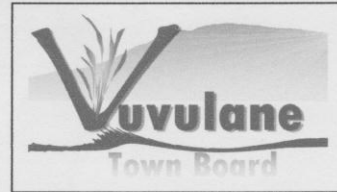
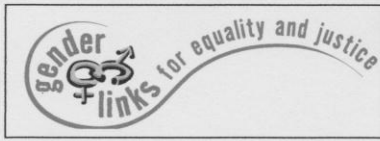
Venue: Vuvulane Town Board

Date: 25 July 2012

NAME	Sex M/F	ORGANISATION / MUNICIPALITY	DESIGNATION	PHONE	FAX	E MAIL
Victor Magwaza	M	Vuvulane Town Board	Chairperson		23131455	vuvutownboard@realnet.co.sz
Willies Shabangu	M	Vuvulane Town Board	Vice Chairperson		23131455	
Moses Maziya	M	Vuvulane Town Board	Councillor		23131455	
Nomcebo Dlamini	F	Vuvulane Town Board	Councillor		23131455	
Lucky Mahlinza	M	Vuvulane Town Board	Accountant		23131455	vuvutownboard@realnet.co.sz
Phindile Mabuza	F	Vuvulane Tow Board	Secretary		23131455	vuvutownboard@realnet.co.sz
Justice Qwabe	M	Vuvulane Town Board	Town Clerk		23131455	vuvutownboard@realnet.co.sz
Njabulo Ntshangase	M	Vuvulane Town Board	AMICAALL Programmes Manager		23131455	

Females	2	75%
Males	6	25%
Total	8	100%

Annex C – Statement of Commitment



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Name of Council: Vuvulane Town Board

Centre of Excellence in Gender Mainstreaming in Local Government

We **VUVULANE TOWN BOARD** are committed to contributing towards achieving the targets of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development through:

- Completing all ten stages of the COE process.
- Ensuring gender balance and sensitivity within the Council.
- Ensuring that women in the Council and in the Community actively participate in all decision-making processes.
- Integrating gender into the planning, monitoring and evaluation systems of Councils.
- Ensuring gender balance and sensitivity in the services delivered by the Council.
- Promoting flagship programmes on ending gender violence; empowering women; gender and climate change, local economic development and care work.
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- Administering the Gender and Local Government score card at least once a year to benchmark progress.
- Documenting in multi media formats the difference that gender awareness makes to the work of the Council.
- Sharing good practices at the annual Gender Justice and Local Government Summit.
- Sharing experiences with, and assisting neighbouring Councils that join the COE process.

Chairperson's Signature:

Town Clerk's Signature:

GL Country Manager's Signature:

Date: 25/07/2012