

# STAGE SIX ADOPTION OF ACTION PLAN AND SIGNING OF STATEMENT REPORT

**Country: Swaziland**  
**Council: Lavumisa Town Board**

**Dates: 10 July 2012**  
**Venue: Lavumisa Hotel**



*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 Lavumisa Town Board held at Lavumisa Hotel on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Ngwenya Town Board see full participants list at **Annex B**

## **Photos – 5**

[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=25484](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25484)

[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=25502](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25502)

[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=25505](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25505)

[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=25508](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25508)

[http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=25511](http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=25511)

The participants evaluated the workshop as having been a helpful and eye-opening workshop.

## **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 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.

### **Processes and activities**

The 3 hours adoption and signing of statement of commitment involved the commitment of Lavumisa 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.

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

### **Welcome and Opening**

The event was opened by the Focal Person Ms. Thobile Jele who welcomed councilors, officers, participants from various organisations and Gender Links. She introduced the Mayor Mr. Mbabazeni Matsenjwa who thanked and welcomed Gender Links staff for such an even. He explained that Lavumisa 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 activities.

He then introduced Gender Links Country Manager, Ncane Maziya and requested her to take the floor and carry on with the program.

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 participants. The contents of the statement of commitment were discussed and approved.

**Outputs**

The signing of the statement of commitment commenced, with the Mayor Mr. Mbabazeni Matsenjwa was first to sign followed by the Town Clerk Mr. Manzi Mthupha and lastly Ncane Maziya Gender Links country manager.

After signing, there was 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 Lavumisa Town Board.

**Outcomes**

Lavumisa 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 empower more women in participating in leadership and decision making positions.

**Closing**

In his closing remarks the Mayor thanked Gender Links for the relationship that has been established. He also thanked the participants for giving themselves time and also showing commitment by attending the event. Lavumisa Town Board has committed itself to implement and sensitize the communities on gender issues as well as the SADC Protocol. He encouraged women to stand up and register for the Local government elections and that women should support one another for the town to have women representation in the next coming council.

***Annex A: Programme***

**SIGNING OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENT STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT  
LAVUMISA TOWN BOARD  
10 JULY 2012**

**PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>13 JULY 2012</b>		
10.00 – 10.05	Registration	Gender Links
10:05-10:15	Welcome and Introduction	CEO – Manzi Mthupha
10.15 – 10:20	Opening	Lavumisa 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	Lavumisa Town Board - Mayor
<i>REFRESHMENTS!!!</i>		

***(Annex B: Participants list)***

**SIGNING OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENT STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

**Country: Swaziland**

**Venue: Lavumisa Town Board**

**Date: 10 July 2012**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Sex M/F</b>	<b>ORGANISATION MUNICIPALITY</b> /	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>E MAIL</b>
Khetsiwe Simelane	F	Swaziland Revenue Authority	SRA Officer	76063145		bsimelane@sra/org.sz
Mathokoza Khumalo	M	Lavumisa Primary School	Teacher	76444339		matkhu@webmail.co.za
Sihle Nxumalo	F	AMICAALL	Volunteer	76922629		
Bongekile Gina	F	AMICAALL	Volunteer	76474329		
Nikiwe Hlophe	F	LATICC		76139714		
Busisiwe Mhlongo	F	Lavumisa Market	Businesswoman	76535833		
Thembi Shongwe	F	Lavumisa Market	Businesswoman	76272789		
Gcinile Hlophe	F	Lavumisa Library	Librarian	7629750		gcinilehlophe@gmail.com
Mnothisa Phakathi	F	AMICAALL	Volunteer	76088675		
Lungile Shongwe	F	Lavumisa Police	Police woman	76270994		
Cebsile Dlamini	F	Lavumisa Police	Police woman	76121703		
Mavela Nxumalo	M	Lavumisa Police	Policeman	76076355		
Bhuti Fakudze	M	Lavumisa Police	Policeman	76137474		
Mzweleni Dlamini	M	Community member	Businessman	76351939		
Skhulile Zwane	F	Lavumisa Town Board	Receptionist	76974701		ltb@swazi.net

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Sex M/F</b>	<b>ORGANISATION MUNICIPALITY</b> /	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>E MAIL</b>
Xolile Shiba	F	Lavumisa Primary school	Teacher	76187024		
Kuluma M. Dlamini	F	Lavumisa Primary School	Teacher	76615144		
Sister V. Dlaminni	F	Swaziland Immigrations	Immigrations officer	76135580		
Thobile Jele	F	Lavumisa Town Board	Programmes Manager (AMICAALL)	76123753	23046204	thobilejele@amicaall.co.sz
Mbabazeni Matsenjwa	M	Lavumisa Town Board	Mayor	76233192		

<b>Females</b>	15	75%
<b>Males</b>	5	25%
<b>Total</b>	20	100%



**Annex C – Statement of Commitment**



**STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

**Name of Council: Lavumisa Town Board**

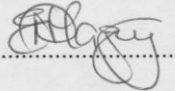
**Centre of Excellence in Gender Mainstreaming in Local Government**

We **LAVUMISA 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.
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- 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: 10/07/2012