



PRESS RELEASE

Second Namibia National SADC Protocol@work Summit showcases competitive case studies in achieving gender equality and women empowerment

The second edition of the Namibia SADC Gender Protocol Summit under the banner "Yes We Must" closed in Windhoek at the Polytechnic of Namibia Hotel School on the Thursday, 04 April 2013 with the Awards Gala Dinner which served to identify the winners in the various categories. Awards were presented to 12 women and seven men whose work (on the ground) won them the highest accolades from judges during presentations made during the course of the two-day Summit. The summit featured entries in various categories including Gender-based Violence and Conflict Resolution, Sexual and Reproductive Rights; Health and HIV and AIDS, Education and Economic Development; Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Media and Local Government institutions' Centres of Excellence (COEs) and leadership.

Under the banner "**2015, Yes we Must! The SADC Gender Protocol@Work**", the



Minister Rosalia Nghidinwa delivering the keynote address at the Namibia SADC Protocol Summit.

Conference brought together 99 participants from Local Authorities, Municipalities, NGOs, Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and representatives of Ministries of Gender and Local Government, civil society and donor organisations.

The Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Minister Rosalia Nghidinwa, highlighted the Namibian leadership's commitment to gender equality in all spheres i.e political, economic and social. She delivered a keynote address in which she urged civil society partners to

"rally with the government in domesticating, implementing and popularising the Protocol."

She said that the country was making good progress in the area of education, where the enrolment figures of boys and girls were either equal or surpassed by the enrolment figures for the girl-child. Other areas which the Minister emphasised, were the legal framework which seeks to address conflict resolution and natural disaster management, and Gender Equality in the Family context. The Minister also recognised the work of Gender Links at Local Government level, in popularising the gender-mainstreaming concept. Local Government officials present at the Gender Summit were urged to embrace this process as and work with Gender Links in achieving the targets of the Protocol.

The Minister pointed out that gender inequality is deeply ingrained in all sectors and areas of society, especially at local government, which is the "Coalface" of service-delivery. She

indicated that addressing inequalities at local government involves internal transformation as well as integrating gender considerations into key tools of governance. She committed her Ministry to working closely with all stakeholders in order to ensure that gender equality is achieved.



Spanish Ambassador to Namibia, Carmen Diaz

are able to participate equally in all aspects of public and private life. According to the Ambassador, although there were signs of progress in international policies towards addressing gender inequality, the progress in terms of policies needs to be converted into concrete and visible changes at local level.

She reiterated her commitment to working with Gender Links at promoting gender equality especially during the remaining almost one thousand days before the 2015 SADC Protocol and MDG targets are due. The Ambassador also urged Local Authorities to use the 2014 Namibian elections as an opportunity to strengthen gender equality, participation and representation in the electorate. Ms Diaz expressed the hope that through Gender Links, women's rights would be promoted and protected by strengthening gender-awareness and



Remembering GBV and HIV/AIDS victims and committing to SADC Gender Protocol targets.

Economic Development that went to Sebastian So-Oabeb from Project Harmony, an organisation working with people living with disabilities, in Outjo in the Kunene Region. At the Gala Dinner Gender Links acknowledged the support of partner organisations in Namibia

Minister Nghidinwa also applauded Gender Links' baseline research work which has now resulted in gender research data in the SADC region. She assured GL that her Ministry - together with other focal Ministries - were working together in consolidating and doing away with gender insensitive laws.

H.E. Carmen Diaz, the Spanish Ambassador to Namibia stressed the Spanish government's commitment to and prioritisation of gender equality and women's empowerment, equality between women and men, which are fundamental rights and a necessary for the achievement of growth, employment and social cohesion in the country in which women and men

the capacities of women and men, politicians and civil servants; build the capacity of the regional gender officers, gender focal persons and gender champions through the Centres of Excellence model; and, by increasing women's participation in politics. She also conveyed her gratitude to Minister Rosalia Nghidinwa for her commitment to gender-related work since taking office late last year.

On the evening of 4th April 2013, Gender Links Namibia awarded 18 winners, including a special award in Education and

such as NALAO, ALAN, AMICAALL and NANGOF, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, and the Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing, and Rural Development, amongst others. The participants and stakeholders also held a candlelight ceremony which saw participants committing to redoubling their efforts to achieve the SADC Protocol targets, and remembered the victims of GBV and those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS.

For more information visit the Gender Links <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/page/namibia-gender-summit> or contact; Sarry Xoagus-Eises, Country Manager, +26481 2209216, Email: namlocalgvt@genderlinks.org.za.

Annex A – Winners

	CATEGORY	Winner	M/F
1.	GBV and conflict – Alliance	FabianSampaya	M
2.		TarahaKalunga	M
3.	GBV and Conflict Resolution (FBO)	Elma Dienda	F
4.	GBV and conflict – Local gvt.	BridgitteHorases	F
5.	Education and economic development - Alliance	FAWENA- RauhaHaufiku	F
6.	Education and economic development – Alliance	Sebastian So-oabeb	M
7.	Education and economic Dev – Local Government	Elsa Laubscher – Aroab Village Council	F
8.	Climate change – Alliance	Ellie Nowases	F
9.	Climate change- Local Gvt	NythenDien – Keetmanshoop Junior Council	M
10.	Sexual and Reproductive Health HIV/AIDS- Alliance	Claudia /Ais	F
11.	Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS- Local Gv	Franco Gomseb – Outjo Municipality	M
12.	Media Wire Service- Online	SawiHausiku- Litubezi	F
13.	Media radio	Zelda N. Hakskeen – Karas Community Service	F
14.	Media COE	Namibian Broadcasting	
15.	Leadership	Zelda N. Hakskeen Keetmanshoop Junior Council	F
16.	Constitutional and Legal Rights – Local Government	Nikodemus Aoxamub (City of Windhoek)	M
17.	Constitutional & Legal Rights - Alliance	Dorkas Shikongo – Okahandja Self Empowered Women	F
18.	Local government - best COE	Outjo Municipality	F
19.	Most Improved COE	Rehoboth Town Council	F- Received by PRO Jeffrey Kasupi
20.		Otavi Town Council	F- Received by Cllr. Joan Basson
21.	Best Rural COE	Aroab Village Council	F- Received by Cllr. Maria Titus