

# **SADC GENDER PROTOCOL SUMMIT**

## **22-25 APRIL 2013**

**MAURITIUS**

***LOCAL GOVERNMENT COE***



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VACOAS PHOENIX



**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE SUMMIT PRESENTATION**

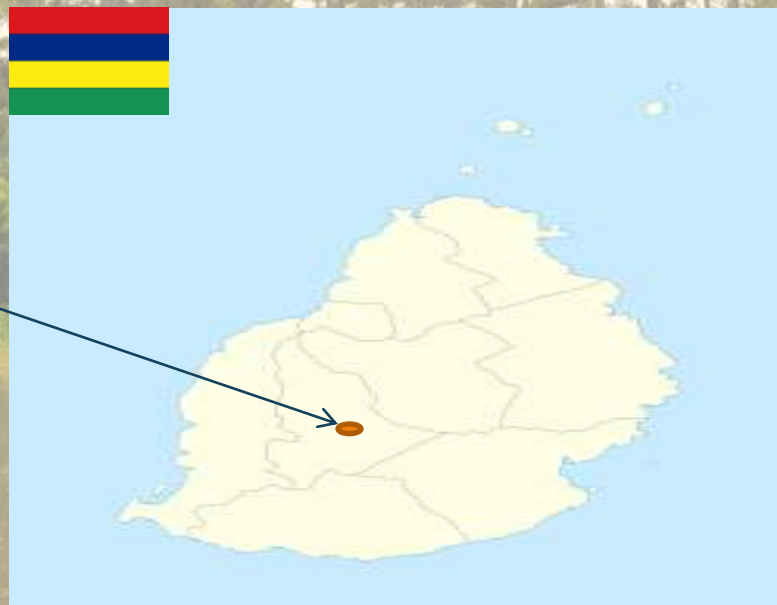
***By Mrs Shamanta Domun –Fagoonee***

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



## LOCATION OF VACOAS- PHOENIX

**MUNICIPAL  
COUNCIL OF  
VACOAS  
PHOENIX**



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VACOAS PHOENIX

- Location : Urban
- Population :108,613
- Female : 55,313, Male:53,300
- Largest town : 110 km<sup>2</sup>
- Youngest town: celebrating 50 years of existence

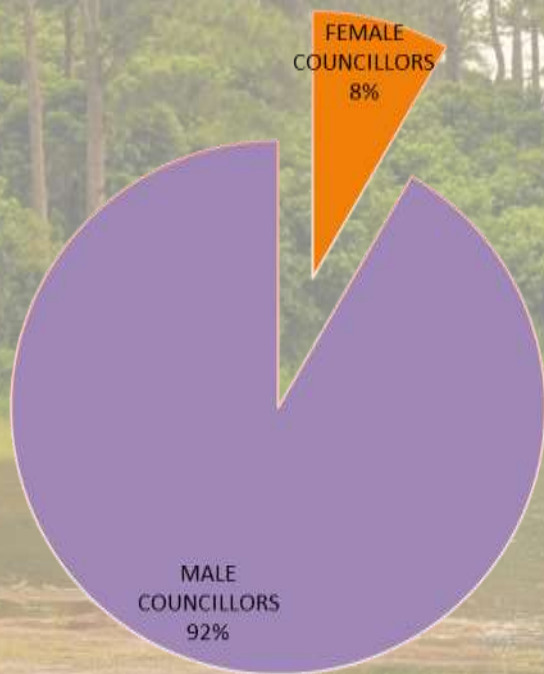
## Councillors

- Female :6, Male:12
- Employees: 815 ;  
• Female:120, Male : 695
- The Municipal council has been part of the COE process since 08.03.06.
- The Council has reached stage 6 of the COE process, i.e. the application of 365 Day Action Plan- Ending Gender Based Violence.

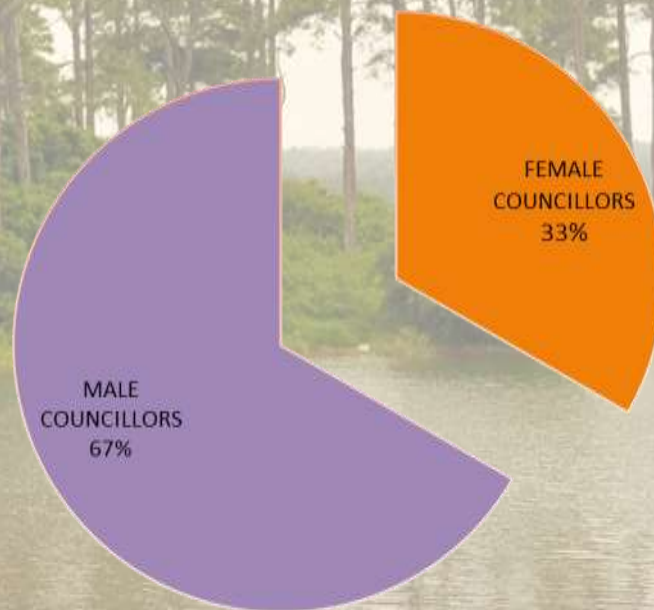


# CHANGE IN PROPORTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VACOAS- PHOENIX

## PROPORTION OF FEMALE TO MALE COUNCILLORS 2005-2012



## PROPORTION OF FEMALE TO MALE COUNCILLORS 2012-2018



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# KEY GENDER AND SERVICE DELIVERY CHALLENGES

## SIZE

- **Vacoas Phoenix is the largest town in Mauritius**
- **Vacoas Phoenix is the second largest town in terms of population**
- The Municipal Council has: 16 social halls
- 14 Kindergartens
- 17 Football playgrounds out of which 10 are equipped with lighting facilities
- 20 Gymnasiums
- 2 Omnisports Complex
- 12 Petanque Courts
- 3 Volleyball Courts
- One Main Library
- One Branch Library
- 6 Sub Libraries
- 2 Reading Points
- One Cybercafé



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# KEY GENDER AND SERVICE DELIVERY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Decentralised service
- Construction of a new municipal building in the town centre
- Training programme to empower women
- Sensitisation campaign.

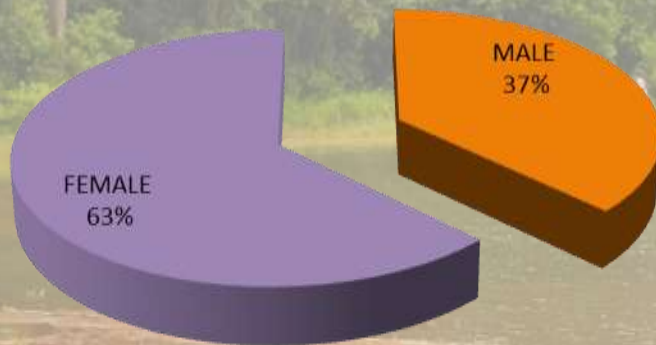


**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**

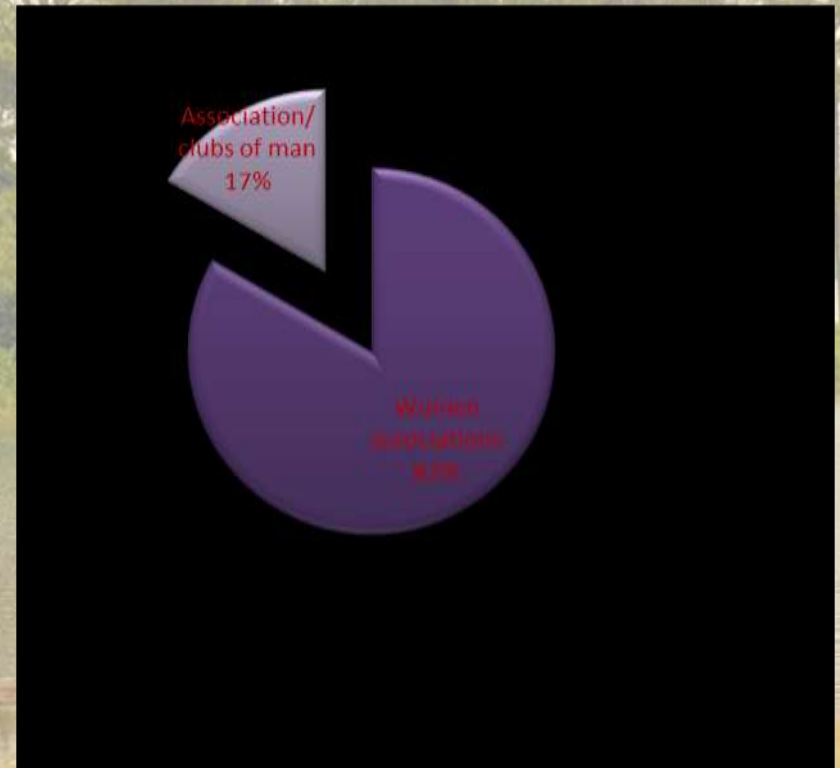


# KEY GENDER AND SERVICE DELIVERY ACHIEVEMENTS

## MALE TO FEMALE USERS OF MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES



## Women to men association using municipal centres for courses, meetings, workshops etc



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**





# GENDER CHAMPIONS

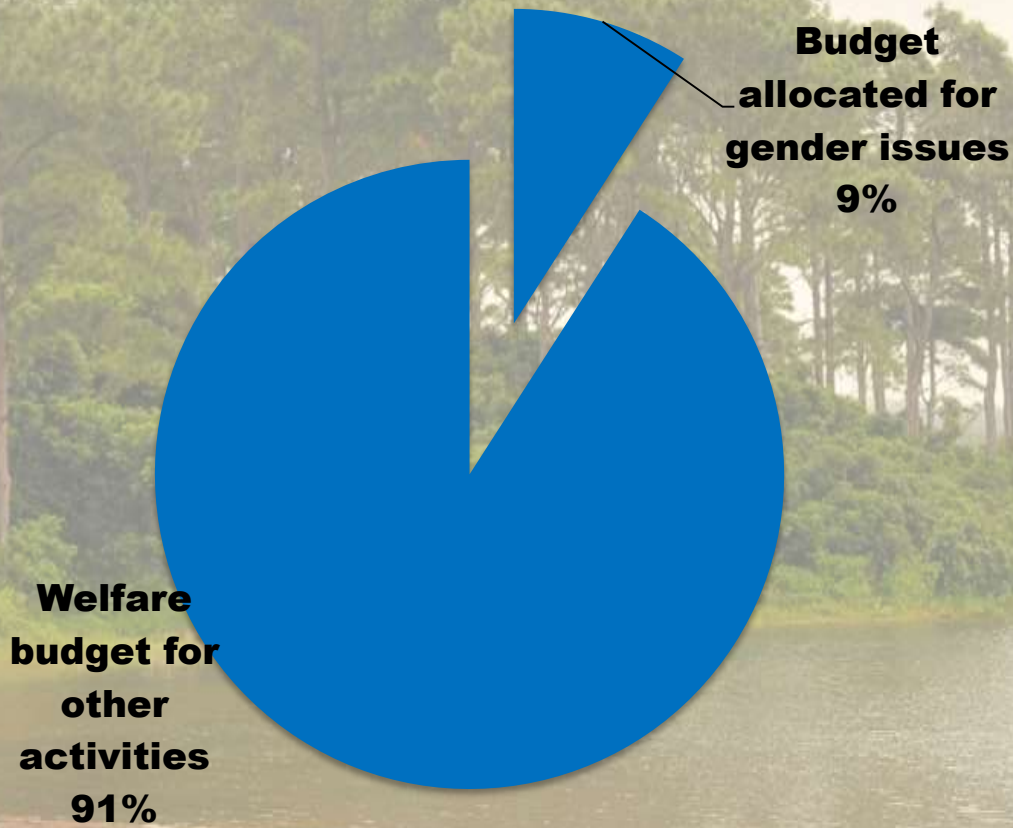
- Chief Executive
- Mayor
- Women appointed as Health Inspectors, Work Inspectors Chairperson of procurement, anti-corruption, bid opening committees is a woman.
- Vice chairperson of committee at council level
- Team of employees set up to address gender issues.



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# BUDGET



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES



**Girls participating in literary activities**



**Only 3 male gym instructors whereas 4 female gym instructors are employed by the council**



**Empowering women by making them aware of loan facilities to set up SMEs**



**Children participating in painting competition**

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES



**Awards to women having successfully completed English literacy course**



**Talk by college student on GBV**



**Sketch by students on GBV**



**Mayor delivering speech on Gender Based Violence – March 2013**



**MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY DELIVERING SPEECH AT VACOAS PHOENIX**



**Winners of Sketch competition on Gender Based Violence**

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# Empowering Women



- Cultural activities
- Literary activities ,computer courses, seminars, annual policing in Municipal Centers.

- Local Economic Development
- Free access to social hall
- Free access to municipal gymnasiums

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# Climate Change



**Efficient and effective refuse collection service**

**The rain water harvesting system was started as a pilot project at the Vacoas fair.**



**Cleaning of drains, canal rivulets and wastelands – clean ,green and safe town**



# Climate Change



**Distribution of 1000 Household composting bins**

**In 2011 MCVP in collaboration with Gender Links and the Ministry of Environment organized a campaign to raise awareness on the environment and sustainable development.**



GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!

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# Community Initiative

- **Financial contribution to NGOs**
- **Cleaning campaigns**
- **Embellishment projects**
- **Decentralization of service- moving to the people for the people**
- **Seminars, workshop- capacity building**
- **Women empowerment**



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**





# ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

- Seminar, Workshops- capacity building- follow up
- Collaboration with Non Governmental Organisations.
- 2014 Year of Challenge on gender issues- Special provision in the budget
- Gender corner
- Free decentralised pre-primary education in municipal kindergarten
- Unanimously voted gender action plan



# HOW THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VACOAS PHOENIX IS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 28 TARGETS OF THE SADC PROTOCOL

PROTOCOL TARGET	COUNCIL ACTIONS
1. Article 4 : (2) The Constitutional & Legal Rights	All council actions are in line with Rules & Regulations in force in Mauritius
2. Article 5 : Affirmative Action	
3. Article 6 : (2d) Eliminate gender based violence	Sensitization campaigns on GBV, 16 days 16 rights campaign, issues in collaboration with the ministry of gender
4. Article 9 : Persons with disabilities	Community Policing – by Mauritius Police force Workshops/Seminars Buildings are accessible to disabled persons- decentralisation of service to be at the coalface- grassroot level

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# HOW THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VACOAS PHOENIX IS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 28 TARGETS OF THE SADC PROTOCOL

PROTOCOL TARGET	COUNCIL ACTIONS
<p>5. Article 11 : The girl and boy child 6. Article 12 : (2) Representation 7. Article 13 : (1&amp;2) Participation</p> <p>8. Article 15 : (1) Economic Policies and Decision Making 9. Article 20 : (1b) Legal</p>	<p>Equal opportunities are given to both boys and girls.</p> <p>Equal opportunities given to male and female councillors to participate in council decisions.</p> <p>No discrimination in issuing licences to male and female traders</p>
<p>10. Article 23 : (2) Support Services 11. Article 26 : (c) Health</p> <p>12. Article 28 : (2) Peace Building &amp; Conflict Resolution</p>	<p>Council acts as facilitator to ministries and NGO's in prevention campaigns (E.g.) Vaccination for elderly</p>



# IMPACT

- Increase in elected female councillors- LGA 2011
- 66.1% of Administrative staff are female
- More women chairing committees



# TESTIMONIALS OF COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS ON GENDER ISSUES

**NATIONAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR COUNCIL**

29 March 2013

**NWEC SS**

The Chief Executive  
Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix  
Vacoas

Dear Sir,

**Organisation of Fair on the occasion of Easter**

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWEC) is a parastatal organisation operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. The main objective of the Council is to promote Women Entrepreneurship Development in Mauritius.

In the context of Easter 2013, the NWEC is proposing to organise a Fair in Vacoas from 9:00 hrs to 10:00 hrs on 25, 26 and 28 March 2013 for some 130 women entrepreneurs.

In view thereof, it would be appreciated if the Municipal Council could extend its collaboration to the NWEC by putting at its disposal the space in front of the new Municipal Centre, located at Independence Street Vacoas for the holding of the Fair on the above mentioned dates.

Thanking you for your usual collaboration.

Yours faithfully,  
D. L. Boodram (Mrs)  
Acting Secretary

**MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY, CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY WELFARE**

National Women Entrepreneur Council  
Rural Road, Phoenix - Reg. of Societies  
Telephone: (230) 486 8388 - 486 1844 - 486 7136 - 486 7138 - Fax: (230) 486 9986  
Email: nwec@mca.gov.mu - Website: http://www.nwec.gov.mu

**THE SUGAR INDUSTRY LABOUR WELFARE FUND**

Doc No: 1001  
Date: November 9, 2011

Dear Sir,

**Use of Social Hall, Municipal Multi Purpose Complex - Gisee Park**

The SIFWF actually operates a small Community Centre in Gisee Park and due to its limited space is unable to cater the increasing demands of community based and leisure activities for the people of the locality.

In view of the above, and to be able to cater for the needs of the citizens of Gisee Park, we will very much appreciate if the Social Hall of the Multi Purpose Complex be put at our disposal on Wednesdays (Monday to Friday) and Saturdays.

No doubt we will work in closer collaboration with the Municipal Council for increased and continued services in the field for the welfare and betterment of our constituents, the people of Gisee Park.

Thanking you for your usual collaboration.

Yours faithfully,  
K.C. Rangarajoo  
Sector Deputy

**MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY, CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY WELFARE**

Ms. H. Dissanayake  
Chief Executive  
Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix  
Town Hall,  
St. Paul Avenue,  
VACOAS

Address: 10, 21 Fair-Crest Street, Port Louis, Mauritius  
Telephone: (230) 202 127/201 10 - Fax: 202 9217  
Email: sifwf@sifwf.org

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

24 November 2012

**The Chief Executive Officer  
Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix  
St Paul Avenue  
VACOAS**

Dear Sir,

**Re: Campaign against Gender Based Violence**

Please refer to your letter dated 11/10/12 and the above subject.

Further to your letter, we are pleased to inform you that your request has been approved.

You may take up the following matters to participate in the above activity:

- Mr. Maurice Dore EC
- Mr. Maurice Dore
- Ms. S. S. Dore
- Mr. S. S. Dore
- Ms. S. S. Dore

The copies of this letter, the above certificate are requested to show students the permission to get involved in activities for women.

Thanking you for your usual collaboration.

Yours faithfully,  
D. L. Boodram (Mrs)  
Acting Secretary

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**International Co-operation Programme**

24 April 2012

Dear Sir,

**Questionnaire**

An amount of Ru. 719,000.00 has been credited to your bank account on 20/04/2012. The amount of Ru. 719,000.00 is for the year 2011-2012.

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# CHANGING LIVES

- 82 women awarded certificates in English literacy out of whom at least 15 have set up their own business
- Sensitisation of adolescent on Gender Based Violence
- Easy access to Gymnasiums and Kindergartens



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# CHALLENGES TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING

- No funding from other stakeholders
- Strongly- embedded patriarchy, “de facto” discrimination still persists in Mauritian society.
- Funds for gender activities included in budget for Welfare activities.
- Capacity-building programs
- Low public response- not enough awareness



# WAY FORWARD

Changing the mind set



**Encouraging more and more girls and women to take part in sports activities**

**Increase in the number of girls and women using library services**

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**





## WAY FORWARD-A TOWN WITH VISION AND ACTION



**Empowering women**



**Cleaning of wasteland to make environment safe for women**

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



# Way forward

- **Training programme for women of vulnerable groups to set up their own business**
- **Installation of photovoltaic cells to produce electricity for own consumption**
- **Special budget for gender issues**
- **Capacity building for staffs**



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
KIND  
ATTENTION

GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!



**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE CAN!**

**QUESTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME**

**THANK YOU- MERCI**

**GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!**