



Usakos Town Council

Striving towards Gender Equality

"Women and men's experiences are affected differently by the services they receive from local authorities. It is critical that Usakos Town Council takes practical steps to embrace the diversity of local communities to achieve gender equality, equity and justice in its policies and service delivery."

Quotable quotes

"Visionary has got a sense of where the country, region, district or town council should be tomorrow".

Fact box

COUNTRY	Namibia
COUNCIL	Usakos Town Council
Baseline score	n/a
Latest score	57
Population/audience	9147
Key characteristics	Farming and Mining
Contact person	Selma Nelago Gases
Designation	Housing & Property Officer
Contact details	Cell: 0811485332/064 530630 Email: selmag@iway.na

Usakos is situated approximately 211 kilometers west of the capital city, Windhoek, on the Walvis Bay Corridor in Erongo Region of Namibia. It is the gateway to the coast, and in particular to Swakopmund, a world renowned tourist destination. The town boasts of a population of approximately 5800, and foresees an annual growth of 2,5 % due to the mining activities.



The town's origin dates back to the 1920's, until the late 1960's when railroad workshops were located there. Steam engines were used during that period, and Usakos is fortunate to still be boasting one of the three steam locomotives which were used in the process.



The four huge water towers, which are so characteristic of those times are still visible; the main water tower used to supply the town of water.

The Town Council consists of seven councilors from three different political parties, namely SWAPO, UDF and RDP; three councilors are females. The Deputy Chairperson of the council is a female, the Chairperson of the Management Committee is a female and third female councilor is a member of the Management Committee of the council.

Although the council does not have a Gender Policy in place, it is the wish and hope of councilors and administration staff members to accelerate the drafting and adopting of the Gender Policy; this will guide the institution on how to deal with gender mainstreaming issues. The council also recognizes the barriers which hinder the participation of women in the Local Economic Development; these would also be addressed during the drafting of the Gender Policy.

The council is well aware of the national, regional and international commitments that the country has made, especially regarding the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the National Gender Policy of which the council wishes to study and adopts as its own.



The council is starting to integrate women into existing development programs and advocate for equal representation at all decision-making levels. They are also strengthening the dissemination of information about the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other social and developmental issues which are affecting the residents.



Community members participating in a community gardening project meeting, which is run mainly by women.