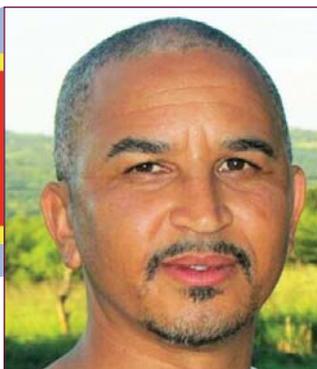


SWAZILAND



Benedict Bennett - Board member



Ncane Maziya - Country manager

Country	Swaziland
Board Member	Benedict Bennett
Staff Members	Ncane Maziya
When registered	July 2012
Alliance Focal Network	Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO)
Government COEs	24
Media COEs	6
Key partners	Local Government Association of Swaziland (SWALGA); Deputy Prime Minister Gender and Family Issues Affairs Unit (GFIU); Ministry of Tinkhundla Development and Administration; Ministry of Housing Urban and Development; Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/ AIDS in Africa (AMICAALL); Swaziland Sexual Reproductive and Human Rights; National Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO).

Protocol@Work Summit facts

- 93 participants- 49 females and 44 males.
- 55 Entries -32 women and 23 men from 11 categories.
- Five female and four male runner-ups.
- Five female and four male winners.
- Seven organisations were represented.
- Four councils, four faith based organisations, two media houses, one government ministry and four councillors were represented at the summit.
- The summit was opened by the Regional Administrator who was represented by Lungile Ginindza. She welcomed participants and introduced the Minister of Housing Urban and Development - Phwayinkhosi Mabuza.

Background

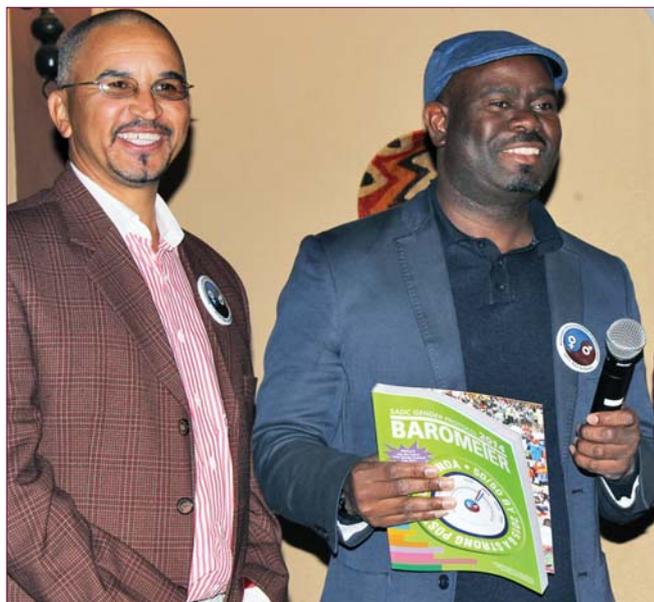
Swaziland Gender Links was legally registered on 26 July 2012. The organisation has also registered with the Revenue Authority (SRA) in July 2013 under PAYE. The success of the COE process demonstrates the value of strong partnerships and excellent synergies with its partners- SWALGA, CANGO, Ministry of Housing Urban and

Development and the Gender and Family Affairs Issues Department. Through its partnership with the DPM's office, GL Swaziland secured some small funds with support from UNDP during the National Summit in 2014.

Key achievements

- After registering with Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) the organisation contributes to staff PAYE. The office also registered with the Swaziland Insurance Cooperation (SRIC) for workmen's compensation and with Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF).
- GL Swaziland signed a memorandum of understanding with the Deputy Prime Minister's office.
- Partnered with the Tinkhundla Ministry and completed stage one of the COE process. GL and the Ministry are now working on cascading the process to new COE councils.
- The Swaziland office successfully held its second National Gender Summit, which aimed to share best gender mainstreaming practice in local government and the media. The theme of the summit was "50/50 by 2015 and demanding a strong post 2015 agenda!"
- In collaboration with CANGO and the DPM's office- GFIU, launched the 2014 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer, presented by the Chairperson of SABA.

- Supported the media through organising training workshops and a field trip to the Nhlanguano council.
- Collected and uploaded 100 “I” Stories and 2000 monitoring and evaluation forms from five councils- Ngwenya, Mankayane, Hlatikhulu, Nhlanguano and Matsapha).



Barometer launch in Swaziland.

Photo: Gender Links

- Completed phase one of the entrepreneurship training for survivors of gender violence with the same five councils. GL received in-kind support from the Matsapha council, who provided a free venue for both COE and entrepreneurship workshops.
- During the Sixteen Days of Activism Campaign, successfully worked with five local councils- Siteki, Mbabane, Manzini, Piggs Peak and Lavumisa to review the gender and GBV action plans, initially developed in 2013.
- SWAAGA requested and paid GL to train three councils (Nhlanguano, Lavumisa and Hlatikhulu) on GBV during Sixteen Days.

Opening doors in the Kingdom of Swaziland

By Benedict Bennett, Board Member, GL Swaziland

Gender Links launched the entrepreneurship programme in 2014 as a response to the “Peace Begins at Home” survey which found that women stay in abusive relationships because they do not have a source of income to fend for their children and themselves. The entrepreneurship programme aims to train female survivors of gender violence to provide them with entrepreneurial skills and to introduce them to local economic development opportunities. Through the entrepreneurship training, GL seeks to test the hypothesis that economic empowerment increases women's agency and self-actualisation thereby increasing their ability to negotiate safer and/or to leave abusive relationships. This programme is a great initiative to motivate women to stand on their own two feet and to become economic drivers in their communities.

Key challenges

- Delays with the signing of the MOU with the office of the Deputy Prime Minister, hindered gender mainstreaming progress with new COEs.
- Financial support is strained and more funding is needed to continue the COE work.
- The move and transfer of key people in the COE councils, creates complications and also slows progress.
- Running an office without an assistant was a big challenge and placed a heavy load on the country manager.

Lessons learnt

- Signing MOUs is crucial for ensuring sustainable commitment from COEs.
- Being proactive helps to mitigate administrative delays in government. To fast track the delay in signing the MOU with the DPM's office, the Country Manager asked the Director from the DPM's office under the Gender & Family Affairs Department to write a letter of support to the *Tinkhundla* so that the COE process could continue.

Key priorities for 2015

- Prioritise fundraising efforts to ensure COE work can continue.
- Submit country strategy to UN Gender Theme Group.
- Cascade COE process with two outstanding old councils and start working with new ones.
- Conduct a Trainer of Trainers workshop with gender focal persons in all new councils.
- Sensitise local chiefs on gender as well as the COE work underway in their areas.
- Strengthening GL's partnership with SWALGA.
- Host the 2015 National Summit and ensure greater synergy between the media, Alliance and government councils.
- Partner with Swaziland's Women Parliamentary Caucus (SWPC) and start preparing for the 2018 elections.

GL Swaziland has successfully completed stages one, two and three of the training in nine of ten selected urban councils. We have worked with the local AMICAALL programme managers in all these councils to identify the participants. More than 180 women have benefited from this programme. It was gratifying to see their excited faces, after using a computer for the first time. They were trained not only in the basics of business and budgeting, but also IT and internet. The “I” Stories” also gave these women a chance to speak out, many had never told their stories to anyone, especially outside of the family circle. Most had not reported their abuse because they feared further victimisation from the police. Many of these women are already running their own small informal businesses and generating their own income.

I congratulate and thank GL for this initiative and for giving these women renewed hope of an economically viable future for themselves and their families.