



Alan Talks

**ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN NAMIBIA (ALAN) NEWS LETTER DECEMBER 2009
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMMES**

The Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) has been working tirelessly to ensure that local authorities are streamlined along the National Developmental Plans in ensuring sustainable local economic development at local level by advocating for inclusion in all areas that are earmarked for the other two spheres of Government (Central and Regional Government). The year 2009 was a year of magnificent strides for the Association in this regard. The purpose of this Edition of the *ALAN Talk News Letter* is to highlight some of those important events/activities of 2009.

1. Annual Management Committee Meetings (MC)



Hon. C. Kashuupulwa, Oshana Regional Governor officiating at an ALAN MC meeting held in Oshakati, Oshana Region during 2009. With him are Hon. K. Shimbulu (Mayor of Oshakati & ALAN MC member) and Hon. G Kamatuka to his right, with Mrs. RN Alugodhi, NALAO President to his left.

A number of four (4) Management Committee Meetings (MC) are held annually where all ALAN Management members comprising all 13 regional representatives get together and deliberate on matters pertaining to local governance and the management of the Associations as a whole. The MC is the highest decision making organ of the Association in the absence of the bi-annual Congress and involves regional stakeholders as well as partners in the local government fraternity.

2. ALAN 55TH Congress



Members of the 55th ALAN Congress Steering

The year 2009 was earmarked to witness the 55th ALAN Congress and a Congress Steering Committee was established. Needless to say, the ALAN MC deemed it practical to postpone the planned congress till after the joint Regional and Local Authority Elections of 2010, upon extensive deliberations with the line Minister, Hon. Jerry Ekandjo. Stakeholders' consultations in regards to the postponement of the congress were held and consensus was reached. Pending pertinent policy matters such as the *Congress Election Procedures, the Review of the Membership Fees as per the 2003 ALAN Constitution*, which usually take place in close consultations with its members (local Authorities) during Congress still needed to be addressed and hence received immediate attention by becoming MC Agenda items extensively discussed during 2009.

As a result, the ALAN Publicity Committee in close consultations with experts from its members (local authorities) and a two legal practitioners, Mr. S. Ueitele and Mr. S. Kishi reviewed the current Constitution as amended in 2003 and proposed relevant changes. Consultative meetings with local authorities as per their respective regional clusters are to be held during 2010. The National Housing Enterprise & Standard Bank/STANLIB Namibia, as Congress Sponsors of 2009 have been approached for funding of these respective workshops and logistics are still underway with finalization in 2010. Similarly, a new *Financial Model* is being explored that will introduce an equitable membership fees contribution framework that will sustain the Association financially as the current system has proven significantly inadequate.

3. ALAN MC Meetings with the State President, the Founding Father, Director General of the National Planning Commission & the Minister of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.



Picture 1: HE President Pohamba receives important documents from the ALAN President Hon. R. Hoabes, with Hon. Pijoo Nganate, ALAN Vice President looking on. Picture 2. Some members of the ALAN MC (Hon. G. Kamatuka, Hon. B. Ekandjo, Hon. A. Kafula and Hon. E. Trepper, accompanied by the ALAN CEO, Ms J. Kauapirura) paid a courtesy call to the Founding Father, Dr. Sam Nujoma..

The ALAN Management held various crucial meetings with the State President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, the Founding Father, Dr. Sam Nujoma, the Director General, National Planning Commission, Hon. Peter Katjavivi and the line Minister of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Hon. Jerry Ekandjo respectively during the year. The following items amongst others were on these respective agendas¹:

- Mandate of ALAN and Programmes Progress Report for 2008/2009.
- Feedback on the ALAN Submission at the Cabinet Retreat Walvis Bay held in 2008 in regards to *Constitutional recognition of the Associations (Financial Support, the Local Authority Reform White Paper, Financial Status of Local Authorities (subsidies, Full time Local Authority Councillors (leave days)etc.*
- Postponement of the 55th ALAN Congress
- ALAN's Member development Projects for implementation during (2009): ALAN - SKL International SIDA funded Project (*Capacity building in advancing Decentralisation at local level*), ALAN/BALA/SALGA EU Funded Project (*The Local Leadership for Transparency and Growth Project*), HIV/Aids and Gender Mainstreaming Project, etc.
- ALAN/PriceWaterHouseCoopers Strategic Partnership Projects in VAT Trainings
- ALAN/National Planning Commission: Training of local authority Councillors on the importance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Vision 2030, and the National Development Plans (NDP3)
- ALAN/NALAO/*Vision Active Performance Management Project to local authorities*

¹ Reports of the meetings held with the State President and the line Minister can be made available upon request.

A joint meeting (ALAN and Regional Council Association - ARC) was held on 10 August 2009 with the Line Minister with the following Agenda items:

- Funding Criteria of LAs by Central Government & Operations of the Equity Fund
- Selling of Land by LAs (Auction, Tender or Private Treaty)- Political Concern
- Local authority Councillor's Allowances
- The Local Authority Act Reform Process (Status Quo)
- Delays in Approval of New Township Establishment (Township Boards)
- Consultants Report on Regional Electricity Distributor's Agencies, MRLGHRD/ALAN Joint Projects,
- The Status Quo of the Karibib Town Council.

In addition, on 8 July 2009 an audience was sought with the GD of the NPC and the meeting discussed similar matters of concerns and more specifically the training for Councillors on matters pertaining to the Namibia Vision 2030, the Millennium Development Goals, and the National Developments Plans etc. The year 2010 is earmarked for rolling trainings in this regard out.

4. Okahandja Town council Tourism & Trade Exposition

The Okahandja Town council held its very first Tourism & Trade Exposition during the week of 26-31 July 2009. ALAN together with its sister organisations; AMICAALL and NALAO participated supported the event by purchasing exhibition stalls where various informative materials were displayed. The City of Windhoek, Ongwediva and Okakarara Town Councils also held successful annual trade fairs during the year.

5. European Union's Seminar on Civil Society: Dar es Salaam

EU Regional Seminar on Thematic Instruments and Programmes, Dar es Salaam July 13th - 15th: was attended by Cllr. Gruzie Goseb on behalf of the ALAN President, Cllr. R //Hoabes. The event addressed the main issues related to thematic operations' management and the role and contribution of Non State Actors (NSA) in the development process. The main ambition of the seminar was to tackle both strategic and operational dimensions of EC aid. Considering the recent shift in the international aid agenda (Aid effectiveness agenda, emergence of new stakeholders in the development arena, financial crisis and its consequences etc.) with a threefold objective: training, information sharing and dialogue. Participants to the regional seminar were *updated on the current international and EC aid agenda, while enhancing their knowledge of the specificities and added-value of thematic operations, exchanged on the current and future involvement of CSO's in development processes and were "fed" with relevant and innovative practices.*

6. ALAN & United Cities of Local Governments (UCLG) - Cities Alliance (CA) Mentoring Programme

In implementation of the post ALAN/ Cities Alliance Pilot *Mentorship Project*, UCLG held a small seminar on strategic planning focusing on strategies for rural and smaller municipalities during 26 ó 29 July 2009 in close partnership with ALAN & the City of Durban. The target group was small municipalities in the hinterland of Durban, mainly in the KwaZulu Natal area and the 5 Namibian municipalities who undertook and developed the ALAN/CA City Development Strategies. The seminar took place in KwaZulu Natal and ALAN's Mrs. Kambala; the Programme Officer together with a representatives from NALAO and CDS 5 Pilot local authorities from Namibia (Karibib Municipality , Usakos, Omaruru, Maltahohe & Otjiwarongo). An additional participant from the City of Windhoek as the mentoring Part 1 municipality accompanied the group. The Association covered the traveling and accommodation costs of all the participants. The intervention was aimed at;

- Taking stock of the Mentoring Programme (SALGA was to promote further partnerships)

- Detailed the needs and request of ALAN to SALGA on the 1 week in-house training on urban policy especially IDP
- Enlightened the participants with an input on IDP, lessons learnt after 10 year, highlighting the disparity between smaller and larger municipalities
- Received feedback on the design of a preparatory grant on IDP for all policy evaluation and recommendation.

7. ALAN-SALGA-BALA/SKL INTERNATIONAL (EU FUNDED) Local Leadership for Transparency and Growth Project (P3)

The Local Leadership for Transparency and Growth Project, a collaborative undertaking between the three Associations; ALAN (Namibia) SALGA (South Africa) & BALA (Botswana) and its lead partner, the Swedish Association for Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) finally came to fruition in June 2009. The Project titled, the *P3 Cooperation* (Partners, Participation, and Progress) is a 3year multi faceted project was aimed at covering three very distinctive areas in local authority governance (1) *Local Economic Development* (2) *Finance and Budgeting* and (3) *Service Re-engineering*. The following Project staff members have been appointed: Country Project Manager, Mr. Ivin Lombardt, Finance Officer, Mr. Jobson Amutenya, two Process Facilitators, Mrs. Golda Kamboua and Mr. Gruzie Goseb. A Steering Committee chaired by SALAR as the Lead Partner and consisting of one representative from each main stakeholder; SALAR, ALAN, SALGA and BALA with the European Union and Sida as invited observers, oversees the activities of the Project.

Six (6) participating municipalities have been selected in Namibia & Botswana and 12 in South Africa. Project implementation has taken off with various discussions and round tables held with relevant stakeholders within each participating municipality (*Otjiwarongo, Walvis Bay, Omaruru, Mariental and Arandis*). Namibian local authorities are to benefit tremendously from this Project as it is earmarked to develop and produce important manuals such as the *Local Government Budget Guide and the Computerized Tariff Model*, amongst others. These are tools aimed at supporting partner municipalities with their public dialogue and tariff calculations during the budget formulation process. More information is available on the ALAN website as well as on the project website www.projectp3.org.

8. ALAN/AMICAALL: HIV/AIDS Member Based Programmes

AMICAALL Namibia is mandated by ALAN to implement *HIV/AIDS* programme on behalf of ALAN at local level in Namibia. The local Chapter is headed by Ms. Rachel Basirika as the National Coordinator and the AMICAALL head Office (International) is also based in Windhoek, Namibia at the Katutura Municipal Office, under the leadership of Ms. Ayanda Nabe, as the Executive Secretary.

The Namibian Chapter has embarked upon the initiative of strengthening local authorities' response to HIV/Aids, community capacity enhancement and strategic planning. One of its core programmes for the year has been the *scaling-up and scaling-out Community Capacity Enhancement, (Community Conversations in Namibia) through community conversations (CCE-CC)*. This is an internationally proven approach for boosting local responses to HIV and AIDS. The approach enables communities to dialogue, decide and take action on the deeper causes of the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The Chapter has piloted the use of CCE-CC in the Caprivi, Oshana, and Kunene and Erongo regions (‘COKE Regions’) in 2007 and 2008. The programme has so far been rolled out to ten (10) local authorities in these four (4) ‘COKE Regions’. The year 2009 witnessed the scaling up to 5 new regions (*Ohangwena, Omaheke, Karas, Kavango and Khomas*) with the aim of reaching all 13 regions of Namibia during 2010.

UNDP provides technical and financial support to the Government of Namibia through the Ministry of Regional Local Government, Housing and Rural Development (MRLGH) toward developing the capacity

of local responses to HIV and AIDS. The National Chapter further held a technical retreat with its sister organizations, ALAN & NALAO during August 2009 in Otjiwarongo.

9. ALAN/GTZ COOPERATION

9.1 GTZ Conference on Local Economic Development (LED)

A number of LED conferences funded by GTZ were held where local authorities received technical assistance in developing their LED Policies and Strategies. Reports are on the ALAN website. Another Conference aimed at a panel discussion with Namibian LED practitioners and organizations dealing with LED of 100 and 150 participants respectively, were held on 12-14 August 2009. International LED professors and practitioners from Europe, New Zealand, America, etc made up the lectures with the overall topic of the conference being cooperation and competition.

9.2. ALAN/NALAO/GTZ MRLHRD -Service Delivery Promotion Project (SDPP)

ALAN and NALAO partnered with the MRLGHRD on a fruitful annual review and planning meeting of the GTZ technically assisted and funded *Service Delivery Promotion Project (SDPP)* during April/May 2009. The meeting included eight (8) new local authorities besides the (12) who were already participating in the first phase of SDPP. Participating local authority mayors and their respective CEOs came together for the project follow up and up-scaling meeting, with the main purpose of providing feedback on the outcomes and priorities of the planning and review meeting. The following reports can be obtained upon request on the ALAN website www.alan.org.na: GTZ SDPP follow up: PLANNING WORKSHOP 19th & 20th April 2009 Reports: FOLLOW UP OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTION PROJECT (SDPP) - PHASE II OF PROJECT EXTENSION PLANNING WORKSHOP amongst others.

10. ALAN - SKL International Partnership: NAMLOG PROJECT



ALAN and SKL International have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the abovementioned project. The MoU is subject to the Agreement (Sida Contribution No 54070400) between Sida and ALAN and Contract for Consulting Services regarding Building a Platform to Support Decentralisation in Namibia. Special efforts are intended to strengthening ALAN and its sister organisations NALAO and ARC as actors in the decentralisation process and on the Namibian political arena. The main aim of NAMLOG is to improve the competence of local, regional and state officials, and politicians in the field of local democracy and local governance in order to create a joint platform to pursue decentralisation in Namibia. A central part of the project is a Capacity Building Programme aimed

at Namibian local government stake holders, which will concentrate on local democracy and local governance. The ALAN/SKL project will run for a period of two years (March 2009-March 2011).

Various interventions have taken place and reports to this effect are available on the ALAN website. The six participating local authorities (*Grootfontein Municipality, Okahandja Municipality, Rundu Town Council, Ongwediva Town Council, Khorixas Town Council and the Rehoboth Town Council*) have been selected and training of these participants in the identified areas is planned for February 2010 in Sweden. All together 24 identified participants are expected to receive training in Sweden. Thus far, a *NEEDS ANALYSIS* was carried out in September 2009. A Questionnaire (Survey) was developed for the participating local authorities & Institutions to determine existing challenges in the implementation of decentralization. A *Needs Analysis Report* was produced. An *INCEPTION WORKSHOP* took place during October 2009 which discussed the *Needs Analysis Report* and additional issues for preparations of the two weeks capacity building training planned in Sweden during February 2010.

In addition to ALAN the participating institutions will include: the Office of the Prime Minister; the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development (MRLGHRD); the National Planning Commission (NPC); the Association of Regional Councils (ARC); and the Namibian Association of Local Authority Officers (NALAO). The issues that will be addressed during the capacity building training include good governance, transparency, holistic planning and public participation.

After the training of the participants in Sweden participants are required to implement Institutional Projects and keep the Association up to date about progress on the overall implementation of institutional projects. Participants will be required to prepare and submit the project implementation reports. ALAN will monitor and maintain relevant regular contact and support in terms of information sharing with participants during the five (5) months implementation period from (March ó July 2010.)

11. ALAN/NALAO/*Vision Activ*: Performance Management Project(PMS)

ALAN and NALAO is planning the roll-out of the Performance Management System to local authorities in Namibia after learning that central government has only earmarked these for Ministry offices and Regional Councils. An Expression of Interest for potential private sector partners to work with the associations was advertised *to develop a technical proposal and costing for a Performance Management Development project for local authorities*. The overall project goal is to ensure that our people have access to local authorities that are accountable, transparent and responsive to their needs. The project will further enable the two associations to achieve their shared vision *to enhance effectiveness and excellence in local government administration and governance.*”

During March 2009 the MRLGHRD, the Office of the President, ALAN and NALAO made up the consortium that reviewed the submitted proposals and assessed the presentations of the prospective partners. *Vision Activ* proved the successful nominated candidates. Final logistics are under way as various proposals for funding have been submitted to various donor institutions. The year 2010 is earmarked for the initial roll-out.

12. ALAN/GENDER LINKS SA Audit of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategies

ALAN in partnership with Gender Links SA developed Gender Based Strategic Plans for all local authorities in Namibia during 2008. In lieu of the continuation of the programme implementation, Gender Links SA appointed Mrs. Sarry Xoagus-Eises as its Programme Facilitator in Namibia. Mrs. Xaugus-Eises together with the ALAN Programme Officer; Mrs. M. Kambala conducted audits on the status of strategies implementations by the local authorities. All local authorities had tailor made Gender

Mainstreaming Strategies developed and were now expected to provide feedback and share the status quo in regards to implementation of these strategies. The Workshop Report is available on the ALAN website.

12.1 ALAN & VNG International HIV/Aids Partnership.

During September 2009 ALAN was invited (two participants) to participate in the Exchange Activity HIV/AIDS 2009 in Windhoek, Namibia organized by the organisation by the International cooperation of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG). The exchange activity was organised in the framework of the LOGO South Thematic programme on HIV/Aids. Based on inputs received after previous exchange activities and workshops held, follow-up on some of these topics with a focus on mainstreaming, communication or project cycle management could be explored. A detailed Report can be obtained from the ALAN website. The following LOGO South HIV/Aids projects are ongoing:

In South Africa

Buffalo City ó Leiden
Emfuleni ó Eindhoven
Tschwane ó Delft

In Namibia

Gobabis - Smallingerland
Rundu - Nieuwegein
Otjiwarongo - Heusden

13. The 300 AFRICA CITY MAYORS “INDABA”: “Mayor ship Strategic Leadership for Excellence in City Management

The President of ALAN, Cllr. Rosina //Hoabes participated at the Conference and officially presented the 3rd Keynote Paper at the *300 Africa City Mayors Indaba 2009*. The conference housed over 2500 local government leaders across Africa as well as invited special guests from across the globe. The leaders included Presidents, Mayors, Ministers, City Managers and all stakeholders involved in the management of cities and municipalities across Africa. The theme of the conference was “*Strategic Leadership for Excellence in City Management*”. Various Namibian local authorities attended the function including the City of Windhoek. Mr. Talent Moyo can be contacted at talent.moyo@tact-bdm.co.za for the conference report.

14. Memorandum of Understanding: ALAN & Regional Council Association (ARC)

Upon addressing the need to avoid planning in isolation ALAN has engaged the Association for Regional Councils (ARC) and the month of October 2009 hence witnessed the long overdue MoU between the two Associations. The MoU outlines all the areas of enhanced cooperation between the two sources. The Hon. Deputy Minister of RLGHRD, Kazenambo Kazenambo launched the ceremony.

15. ALAN/NALAO End of Year Retreat

The Associations (ALAN & NALAO) concluded the year 2009 with the *End of Year Retreat* which saw all its 54 members assemble under one roof to discuss pertinent issue in view of the postponed 55th ALAN Congress. The retreat concluded with a communiqué available on the ALAN website.



From left to right: Mrs. Niita Alugodhi, NALAO President, Mr. T. Vutha from Sebata (event sponsor), Legal Practitioners Mrs. Toivo and Mr. Silas Kishi who provided legal advice at the Retreat..

16. Conclusion

The President of ALAN, Hon. Rosina //Hoabes on behalf of her entire Management Committee wish to thank our esteemed members, all our partners, stakeholders, development partners, associate partners and all that contributed to the accomplishment of our mandate in any way during the years and specifically during 2009. We further wish to reiterate our commitment to continue working with you all as you witness our growth for the ultimate advancement of our valued members, the local authorities of Namibia. May the year 2010 only take us all a few more milestones higher.

For further information, contact:

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