



# **The Association for Local Authorities in Namibia**

Richardine Kloppers St, Khomasdal Municipal Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Box 2721 Windhoek

Telephone: +264 61 240914/5; Fax: +264 61 240929; Email: alan@iway.na; www.alan.org.na

## **ALAN "The Era that Was: 2004 - 2011"**

1. Hon Minister of Regional & LGHRD, Comrade Jerry Ekandjo
2. Speaker of the House & Ministers present
3. Hon GD of NPC
4. Hon Governors & Special Advisors,
5. ALAN Management
6. Hon Mayors & Deputy Mayors
7. Chair Persons of Management
8. All elected Honourable Councillors,
9. President of UCLGA Reverend Mpho
10. Deputy Chairperson of SALGA
11. Colleagues from Bala, SALGA, UCLGA & UCLG
12. Our partners from SALAR
13. President of ARC, Honourable Ndemula
14. Hon Regional Councillors,
15. President of NALAO, Comrade Victor
16. All local authorities Chief Executive Officers
17. The Rector of Polytechnic & friends from UNAM
18. CEOs of NamWater, NamPower, ECB, NBC, NCCI & PS of Local Gov
19. Directors of MRLGHRD
20. All distinguished invited guests,
21. The Media, Ladies & Gentlemen

Director of Ceremony, Good morning

It is indeed an humbling privilege to be standing here this morning in a hall filled to capacity with friends and comrades in local governance to share with you the story of an *“Era that was, the era of the 2004-2011 ALAN Management Committee, MC as we refer to it in short”*.

As guided by our Vision of *“effective and efficient local governance through improved quality services to the Namibian Citizens”* it is only applicable that the theme of our 55<sup>th</sup> Congress is *“Local Government Reform towards Quality Service Delivery”*. Services delivery is indeed the core business of our members which none of us can survive without in this new era where social emancipation and development has become the order of the day as well as the calling of many leaders all over the world.

Over these years we have endeavored to protect, safeguard and enhance the images, interests, rights and privileges of Local Authorities through various interventions and capacity building programs. Our mandate of advocacy, lobbying and strengthening of capacity of local authorities and providing representation has been not been a smooth and rollercoaster funfair. It has indeed been amidst harsh and at times heart rendering circumstances that we navigated this mandate, but navigate we did.

As evidently proven by a kaleidoscope of colors of beautiful local government flags and logos (all 51) of them from all over the country, the course we drive is without a doubt a valued one. It is only people who believe in the good you do and the course you fight that will show the enthusiasm and support that is indicative in the manner that you have done by being here with us today. Thank you for believing in the course of our Association, WE are because YOU ARE. I applaud you all!!!

Allow me to at this juncture highlight a few milestones in the “Era that was” at ALAN, our Association. Yes, OUR Association and I say this with absolute and renewed vigor today as strengthened by your support to us the outgoing Management of ALAN.

In our quest to advocate for specific and strategic developmental agendas for the benefit of our members, we held various crucial meetings with the State President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, the Founding Father, Dr. Sam Nujoma, the then Director General of National Planning Commission, Hon. Peter Katjavivi, the late Hon John Pandeni (May his soul rest in internal peace) as well as our current Minister of RLGHRD Hon. Jerry Ekandjo respectively during the years. The following items amongst others were on these respective agendas<sup>1</sup>:

### **1. Local Authority Reform Paper (status)**

---

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

- 2. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR COUNCILLORS  
(Increment of Councillor's allowances etc**
- 3. BRAIN DRAIN AT LOCAL AUTHORITY LEVEL ( Salaries  
& Benefits of Local Authority Officials)**
- 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ACT  
(Consolidation of activities for local authorities  
between ALAN & MRLGHRD).**
- 5. REGIONAL ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTORS (its effect on  
Local Authority Finances)**
- 6. DECENTRALIZATION at Local Authority Level  
(Consultation Paper – Research done by ALAN &  
Proposed amendments to the Decentralization  
Policy)**
- 7. Conditions of Services of Local Authority CEO's  
(suspension etc)**
- 8. PERFORMANCE Management System & Strategic  
Plans for Local Authorities**
- 9. A Submission at the Cabinet Retreat in Walvis Bay  
held during 2008 in support toward Constitutional  
Recognition of the ALAN, Financial Support, the  
Local Authority Reform White Paper, Financial  
Status of Local Authorities (subsidies, Full time Local**

**Authority Councillors, challenges with leave days experienced by local authority political office bearers etc.**

**In addition to this a joint meeting (ALAN and Regional Council Association - ARC) was held on 10 August 2009 with the Line Minister to address matters of common interest.**

**Furthermore, on 8 July 2009 an audience was sought with the Director General (DG) of the National Planning Commission 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 and how local authorities can contribute to the attainment of Vision 2030.**

Our small office has grown in leaps and bound and today we refer to our Secretariat as the team. The secretariat has been strengthened.

**At AMICAALL Namibia, a “subsidiary” of ALAN administering HIV/Aids programmes as local level on behalf of ALAN has been established. At NALAO, a close collaborative partner has developed over the past few years with both offices now under one roof since 2008.**

In terms of Institutional Capacity Building and new ITC developments, pertinent Legal and Policy matters such as the Review of the Constitution, Human Resources & Finance Policies; Review of the Membership Fees etc.

In terms of Member (Local authorities) capacity building programs various capacity building programmes were embarked upon and to mention a few these are (*a detailed report detailing beneficiaries and in-depth information on each of these Programs/Projects is available*):

- ALAN & SKL: SALAR/SALAIDA (Swedish government -SIDA)
- Facilitation of Sweden Twinning Partnership with Namibia local authorities
- ALAN/BALA/SALGA EU Funded Local Leadership & transparency Project (P3)
- ALAN SKL International (MRLGHRD) support toward Decentralisation Project
- ALAN/Cities Alliance NCDS Pilot Projects
- ALAN/Gender links Gender Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Local Authorities
- ALAN/AMICAALL HIV Aids Member based Programmes
- ALAN & NALAO /MRLGHRD SDPP Project
- *In the Pipeline for 2011*
- ALAN & NALAO Performance Management Systems (PMS) for Local Authorities ALAN Constitutional Review Workshop
- ALAN/Cities Alliance NCDS Pilot Projects (Up Scaling: 2nd phase) ALAN/PWC VAT Training & Fraud Prevention Workshops
- ALAN/NPC Local Councillors Training in the MDGs, Vision 2030 & NDP

**Ladies and Gentleman, Honourable Minister,**

Unfortunately, every silver lining has an end and in us much as we had a few milestones we encountered a few icebergs along the way and the following are the challenges experienced by our members and our Association during the Era such as:

- ✓ **low economic growth**
- ✓ **lack of investment opportunities,**
- ✓ **migration & urbanization,**
- ✓ **old & dilapidated infrastructure,**
- ✓ **the establishment of the REDs, high rate of staff turnover,**
- ✓ **lack of financial resources (equitable intergovernmental transfers)**
- ✓ **Skilled human resources as well as poor financial controls to mention but a few**

Once again, we reiterate and call upon Central government to look into the systematic but equitable intergovernmental transfers system, which we foresee to be the ultimate panacea and a pathway toward responsive local governments able to ensure effective and efficient services deliver to the citizenry.

We would like to extend our word of thanks to our line Ministry for their annual contribution towards our Association as we have only been able to survive due to a grant from the line

Ministry on a three years agreement (2009-2011). We applaud you, Hon Minister.

**Director of Ceremony,**

In winding down our “Era That Was”, Ladies and Gentleman

With growth comes new ideas and new ideas bring about transformation. ALAN is looking to the future and new growth strategies which necessitate sustainable future sources of Funding.

With these few snippets into our “*Era that Was*” allow me to once again express my sincere heartfelt gratitude, indeed on my own behalf and that of my entire Management team toward our members; our partners & donors and all developmental organizations with whom we engaged over our term of office for your unwavering support over the past few years. I will fail tremendously in my duty if I don’t single out FCM in Canada, the Finish Government through Mr. Mauree Starckmann & Mr. Timmo Palander.

To the team at Sida (Sweden) and our sister away from home SALAR - I believe Ms. Marjo Nervalla from SALAR is here in our midst..... whom so ardently teamed up with our Associations (ALAN/BALA & SALGA) through various interventions of capacity building, not just for our members but also toward strengthening our administration, words to express our gratitude might never be adequate, and we can only SAY – GOD WHO DWELLS IN THE DEPTH OF OUR HEARTS SEES IT ALL & WILL REWARD YOU ALL ACCORDINGLY!!!

---

To my African brothers and sisters here from Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Kenya (any one I left out???) Our histories are long and memorable ones, and so our paths ahead shall only be strewn upon with goodness & love; peace & humility, everlasting partnership and wealth. Welcome and feel at home, you are amongst friends!!!!

As I conclude, join me in also welcoming Ms. Sarah Hoeflich, all the way from United Cities of Local Government (UCLG), Barcelona. We remain in owe of your commitment and support toward the course of local government and cities and slum upgrading in particular. You are indeed a rare gem, thank you and welcome to Namibia, once again!

To my colleagues in local government politics & administration I say, this platform, the 55<sup>th</sup> ALAN Congress is yours, take full advantage of it, don't be afraid to ask questions; network and capacitate yourselves best you can, learn from each other over the next two to three days....we will see each other all during the private sitting on Saturday!!!

I Thank You!!

---

*For Further Information contact:*

*JENNIFER T. KAUAPIRURA, Chief Executive Officer – ALAN, Tel: +26461-240914/5, Fax: +26461 240929*

*Cell: +264 811292329, Email: [jkauapirura@alan.org.na](mailto:jkauapirura@alan.org.na)/[alan@iway.na](mailto:alan@iway.na), Web page: [www.alan.org.na](http://www.alan.org.na)*