

Réseau des Femmes
Elues Locales d'Afrique



UCLG AFRICA
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique
CGLU AFRIQUE

**1st Draft REPORT OF THE LAUNCH OF THE REFELA NAMIBIA WOMEN NETWORK
CHAPTER IN ALL THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

OTJIWARONGO, OTJOZONDJUPA

14-15 June, 2019



Report Compiled by Ms. Tuyeni Kandume

CONTENTS

1. DAY 1, JUNE 14TH 2019	3
1.1 Introductions	3
1.2 Background to the workshop and Launch	5
1.3 Presentation of objectives and programme	6
1.4 Discussion and Adoption of the REFELA Work Plan, 2019-2021	7
1.4.1 Street Children	7
1.4.2 African Cities that are favorable to Women’s Economic Empowerment Campaign,”	8
1.4.3 “African Cities’ Zero Tolerance to Violence Against Women and Girls.” Cities say, “STOP IT.”	8
1.5 Installation of the national chapter REFELA Namibia	9
1.6 Adoption of the Rules and Procedures/ Regulations of REFELA	9
1.7 Closing Remarks	9
2. DAY 2, JUNE 15TH 2019	10
2.1 Program Moderators: Hon. S. !Oë –Amseb and Hon. Councilor from Okahandja	10
2.2 The Welcoming Remarks	10
2.3 Remarks from Partners:	10
2.4 REFELA Overview Background and Purpose of the Namibian Women Chapter Network	10
2.5 Signing of the Declaration into effect by the All Mayors present	11
2.6 Statement and introduction of the Keynote speaker, National Commissioner of the REFELA Namibian Chapter	12
2.7 Keynote Address and Launch by Hon Derek Klazen	14
2.8 Conclusions and closing remarks	16
3. RESOLUTIONS	17
3.1 To the REFELA Women Regional Commissioners	17
3.2 To Mayors and Locally elected officials	17
3.3 Acknowledgements of collaborations and sponsors	18
4. ANNEXES ATTACHED TO THE REPORT SHOULD INCLUDE:	18
Annex 1: financial Report	18
Annex 2: List of participants.....	18
Annex 3: Details of any teaching /training materials.....	18
Annex 4: Programme agenda.....	18

1. DAY 1, JUNE 14TH 2019

1.1 Introductions

The Network of Women Elected officials of subnational and local governments of Africa (REFELA) regroups women members of the political bodies dealing with the governance of local authorities and governments of Africa. REFELA was launched in Tangiers, Morocco, in 2011. It is managed by an executive Bureau that includes 15 members representing the five regions of Africa. It has national chapters that are called to be the gender equality committee of the national associations of local authorities governments in each African country. It includes national chapters intended to be the gender equality commission of the national associations of communities. The Chair of REFELA is until November 2018 under the responsibility of the City of Bangangté in Cameroon, represented by its Mayor, Mrs Celestine Ketcha-Courtes.



Program Moderators: Hon. S. !Oë –Amseb and insert

The Southern African women from seven countries in the Southern African region, gathered for the 1st African Elected Women in Local Government Authority (REFELA) Southern African Development Countries (SADC) at Safari Court, Windhoek, Namibia from 3 – 4 September 2018, to adopt and review the REFELA declaration and objectives since the inception of the body in Tangier Kingdom of Morocco 8 – 11 March 2011

In addition to that, 1st SADC-AGM REFELA elected Hon. Katrina Shimbulu as President of SADC REFELA from 2018-2021, her new office main purpose is to ensure the resolutions of the general assembly task with President elect to institutionalize the office of REFELA in SADC is attained.

The SADC-AGM REFELA also appointed a task team of three (3) women from Namibia from its delegates to spearhead responsibilities of regional communication through the next coming 3 years from 2018-2021. The Namibian Commissioners consists of;

Hon. Georgina. Mwiya-Simataa as the Commissioner of REFELA Namibia

Hon. Maria Elago as the Vice Commissioner of REFELA Namibia

Hon. Hilde M.Jesaja as the Treasurer of REFELA Namibia

The United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCGLA) – Southern Regional Office (SARO) General Assembly which was held in Windhoek- Namibia, on 02-05 September 2018 the following elections were made:

REFELA President

Ms Katrina Shimbulu, Substantive

REFELA Vice President

Malawi- Hon. Councillor Patricia Nkhono

South Africa – Hon. Councillor Sindiswa Gomba

SADC REFELA Executive

Botswana-

Lesotho- Mpho

Mozambique- Helena Langa

Namibia- Georgina Mwiya

Swaziland-

Zambia – Rashida Mulenga

Zimbabwe – Netsai Makono



Some of the REFELA members on the 14th June 2019 during the workshop

The office of the SADC President of REFELA'S main purpose is to ensure the institutionalization of the office of REFELA and the establishment of REFELA CHAPTERS in SADC are realized.

1.2 Background to the workshop and Launch

The Association of Local Authority in Namibia (ALAN) was part of the successful 8th Africities Summit which was hosted in the city of Marrakesh, Morocco, from 20 - 24 November 2018. The theme of the Summit is "Transition towards sustainable and resilient cities and territories in Africa: role of local and regional governments".

Alongside the Summit the meeting on the Network of Women Elected officials in local governments of Africa (REFELA) regroups women members of the political bodies dealing with the governance of city and subnational governments of Africa. The inclusion of the concerns of

Women in the definition and implementation of African city and subnational government's policies and strategies.

Following the completion of a workshop training to launch the REFELA Namibia Chapters the workshop seeks to strengthen the role of the locally elected women in our local Authorities and Village Council. Following a successful establishment and installation of the REFELA Regional Chapter in all the 13 Regions of Namibia, the office felt the need to conduct a workshop on the following;

- Presentation of objectives and programme
- Discussion and Adoption of the REFELA Work Plan, 2019-2021
- Installation of the national chapter REFELA Namibia
- Adoption of the Rules and Procedures/ Regulations of REFELA.

The target audience was omen in local and subnational government, involvement of the Minister, stakeholders, youth, children and community representation and media.

1.3 Presentation of objectives and programme

The workshop was inducted on the objectives of the REFELA Network in broader sense as well as the programme below is the version of what was presented to the Regional Commissioners. The first forum aims to:

- Identify the role and contribution of territorial and local authorities in helping to achieve the millennium developmental goals, on the African Continent, mainly objective 3, related to promotion of equality and empowerment of women;
- Provide a forum for local elected women leaders through which they can highlight their achievements and uphold their rights, especially regarding Issues in connection with good governance and sustainable human development;
- Provide a space for local Elected Women to exchange and tackle specific problems they encounter while carrying out their missions as women in leaders;
- Establish an affirmation structure for the enjoyment of civil and political rights of African women;
- Strengthen women's leadership at local level and develop good governance practices to help reduce social disparities and achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
- Strengthen networking among local elected women at the African Level and elsewhere, as a means to boost advocacy, political dialogue, communication, information exchange capacity building, professional development, solidarity and mutual support;
- Put in place mechanism to help run manage the network and organize its relations with UCLGA.

1.4 Discussion and Adoption of the REFELA Work Plan, 2019-2021

The Regional Commissioners were delighted to hear their activities that needed to be carried out in order for them to cascade the workplan to the regional level. The workshop was introduced to the work plan of REFELA 2019-2021, of which the Regional Commissioners has adopted to implement by localizing the content in the Namibian context. Terms of reference for work employment for the secretariat or to continue using the Local Authority administration. The meeting indicated that the terms of reference should be uniformed as that of the National. The meeting agreed that the personnel in the office should be voluntary and should be willing to carry out the duties of the REFELA. The president has indicated that there is no institutional budget for the REFELA, The president indicated that all members should note that REFELA is financially strained.

REFELA supports the development of Women leadership within African city and subnational governments, as well as the inclusion of the concerns of Women in the definition and implementation of African city and subnational government's policies and strategies. To that effect, in its tri-annual action plan for 2019-2021, REFELA proposes to launch three campaigns: 1. A campaign on African Cities without street children; 2. A campaign on African cities to zero tolerance of violence against women's ; 3. A campaign on Africa Cities favorable to Women's economic empowerment.

1.4.1 Street Children

The campaign, "African Cities without Street Children," is an initiative driven by REFELA, supported by the Kingdom of Morocco's National Observatory for the Rights of Children (ONDE) and UNICEF. The campaign aims to provide solutions for a shared African problem; that which is the vulnerability, accepted insecurity and invisibility of street children. It also aims to mobilize government officials and elected African territorial officials in the protection of children within a decentralized territorial approach. Namibia has no computerized data, however in 2017/18 the number of street children stood at 87 000, but these are only those who were identified. The ministry of gender said this number continues to grow every day.

The phenomena of Street children needs to be address in order to strengthen the social wellbeing of children by continuing to;

- Equip children with skills to cope with day to day challenges
- Reintegrate street children and those from disadvantaged backgrounds back with families, schools and communities after counseling.
- Provide early intervention strategies aimed at keeping children off the streets

- Provide Psycho Social Support Services (PSS) to all children accessing the facility
- Provide overnight accommodation, food and counseling for children found on the streets. The Interim Night Shelter admits children between the ages of 6 to 18.

1.4.2 African Cities that are favorable to Women's Economic Empowerment Campaign,"

- Conducting a census of women entrepreneurs at the city / municipality level, where they are active and conduct business; their personal and professional profile, the type of economic activity and economic impact on the city or municipality;
- Broadening the scope of women's entrepreneurial activity and raising them to a higher level of entrepreneurship;
- Facilitating women's access to public markets, fighting male hegemony and enabling women, through affirmative measures, to participate and to invest their entrepreneurial potential for the benefit of their city / municipality and to have the opportunity to grow their company;
- Gaining support to create a network that can bring women together and support their work to increase the visibility of women entrepreneurs at the local level.

1.4.3 "African Cities' Zero Tolerance to Violence Against Women and Girls." Cities say, "STOP IT."

Briefing Notes on Gender Based Violence (GBV) In Namibia

- Namibia is faced with undesirable acts of gender based violence which contribute to the regression of economic milestones that the country achieved this far reference is made to Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution of 1990,
- Besides these national laws and international conventions, GBV is escalating. Government and other stakeholders are busy holding awareness meetings country wide sensitising people on their rights and good practices on how to relate to each other and penalties under the existing laws. Surprisingly enough, acts of GBV are often inflicted by intimate partners, husbands, male family members, acquaintances and rarely by strangers.
- Report it to "Stop it." The Objectives of the campaign focused on three areas: Passion killing, Baby dumping and human trafficking and aims at the followings:
 - To create awareness and educate the public on GBV issues.
 - To reflect the government's aspiration for a zero tolerance of such social evils.
 - To empower service providers/ public to prevent, detect, protect, report and refer GBV cases including Human Trafficking.

- To promote the current GBV services in the country. For example the public to know the toll free number of the police i.e. 10111 (they can call this number any time and is for free).
- The public to be able to look out for any sign of GBV and act.

Following the presentation on the work plan of REFELA, the common question that the Regional commissioners where faced with is the issue of Resource mobilization and provision of funding for the implementation of the work plan. The Regional Commissioners where informed that the office of the President of SADC has previously in February 2019, communicated to the REFELA Africa Office in Morocco of make provision for the institutional operation for SARO, however the response was not positive as the REFELA Bureau is still to officially table the budget provision for REFELA to the statutory meeting of the 20th Executive Committee Session of UCLG Africa to be held in Cairo Egypt, 17 – 21 June 2019, However the office of REFELA in Southern Africa has indicated that we cannot wait for a long process, and that we should endeavor to solicit for finance from other means so that implementation is realized. Thus the proposal for the Main account for REFELA of which all Regional Commissioners are expected to contribute was highly welcomed and endorsed.

1.5 Installation of the national chapter REFELA Namibia

The Regional Commissioners where inducted on ensuring that there is a need to continue to promote the percentage of women in Local Government, which still remain a concern without the absence of policy and legal framework to advance this noble agenda. There is now a role bestowed on the Regional Commissioner to cascade the initiative to the constituency level in order for implementation to be realized and inclusive. That by way of the various Regional REFELA Installation the structures of REFELA has been legally recognized and should mainstream in all the constituency at local level. The Regional Commissioners were excited to serve their people and they have thus commit to implement the work plan as stipulated in the strategic framework.

1.6 Adoption of the Rules and Procedures/ Regulations of REFELA

The Regional Conference of the Commissioners has adopted the specific rules and Procedures, the Regulations of REFELA without any changes to apply to the Namibian REFELA.

1.7 Closing Remarks

The National Chairperson of REFELA Namibia, Hon G. Mwiya thanked the Regional Commissioners and urged them to work strategically in order to implement the action plan. She also indicated that the Regional Commissioners should delegate the functions and authorities to the Deputy Commissioners *vis vie* to the Regional Treasurer to ensure effectiveness and for coordinated efforts.

2. DAY 2, JUNE 15TH 2019

2.1 Program Moderators: Hon. S. !Oë –Amseb and Hon. Councilor from Okahandja

The event started off with the prayer by Hon Penelope Martin-Louw Deputy Mayor of Walvis Bay.

2.2 The Welcoming Remarks

The occasion was graced with the welcoming remarked which was delivered by the Special Advisor to the Governor of Otjozondjupa Hon. John Khamuseb in brief his welcoming Remarks that it is an opportune time as we are all looking forward to officiate and witness the launch of this very important event by Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable, Dr. Peya Mushelenga in absentia, he further remarked that it his pleasing duty to grant all a heartfelt-warm welcome to this occasion that seeks to recognise and celebrate women empowerment in all spheres.

2.3 Remarks from Partners:

Namibian Association of Local Authority Officials (NALAO).

2.4 REFELA Overview Background and Purpose of the Namibian Women Chapter Network

Delivered by Hon Katrina Shimbulu, REFELA VICE President of Southern Africa and President of the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia she remarked how delighted to accept the Presidency of SADC-REFELA for the next three years at a time when a new Africa, the Africa we want, is on the rise. Africa is on the March, driven by unity of purpose, the pursuit of common objectives and an unwavering determination to bring about shared prosperity as well as efficient and effective delivery of goods and services to our communities, including those living in rural areas.

She further emphasized that as women they re-affirm their obligation to galvanize women to attain total economic development, fight gender based violence, and promote women and children rights centered on women empowerment and development. REFELA seeks to provide a forum for local elected women leaders to showcase their achievements in areas such as good governance and sustainable human development.

We also aim to provide a platform for local elected leaders to exchange and tackle problems they encounter when carrying out their duties. Our goal is to strengthen women's leadership at local levels and develop good governance practices to ameliorate social disparities and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Similarly, REFELA aims to strengthen networking amongst local elected women in SADC region as a means to boost advocacy and political dialogue, communication, information exchange, capacity building and professional, development.

Before concluding her statement she inform the Deputy Minister that Namibia has successfully establish 13 Regional Chapters intended to be the gender equality commission of the national associations of communities at the constituency level. She further urge all the Mayors and CEO's to coordinate their abilities and effort to ensure that Namibia takes the lead in becoming smart cities.



2.5 Signing of the Declaration into effect by the All Mayors present

The statement by the REFELA Southern Africa was followed by the signing of the declaration by various Mayors and Village Chairperson, to serve as a commitment to implement the 3 year action plan.



Hon Risto Kapenda, the first Mayor to Sign the Declaration of the REFELA TRI-ANNUAL ACTION PLAN followed by the Deputy Minister Hon Derek Klazen and Hon Katrina Shimbulu REFELA Vice President of Southern Africa

2.6 Statement and introduction of the Keynote speaker, National Commissioner of the REFELA Namibian Chapter

The National Chairperson of REFELA in Namibia **Hon Georgina Mwiya**, was delighted and indicated that we have started very well in Namibia when it comes to the establishment of the REFELA Chapter, Because it was barely last year that the Locally Elected women of Africa after taking part in the conference, organized by the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA-SARO) in Windhoek Namibia,



The National Chairperson of REFELA in Namibia Hon Georgina Mwiya

She was quick to remind the Hon deputy Minister Derek Klazen and Hon Vice President of REFELA Africa, that they have witness the occasion both in Windhoek and in Marrakech. She indicated that Namibia did not hesitate to in implement this noble cause. As today they are happy to report and bear witness to the implementation of the resolutions which they have adopted she remarked. That today the Namibian REFELA heed to the call to accelerate the establishment of the REFELA CHAPTER.

Today the Namibian REFELA has heed to the call to adopt the framework of REFELA, Today the Namibian REFELA HAS heed to the call to implement the tri-annual action plan, and as such they have taken a declaration as a commitment to their deeds. The strategic Action plan of the Gender

Commission and that REFELA is part of Africa's "Vision 2063" and of the Sustainable Developmental Goals SDG's International Agenda.

2.7 Keynote Address and Launch by Hon Derek Klazen

The Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development indicated that he is happy to see women from all local government level working towards this noble initiative, he further stressed that Namibia only became part of REFELA in September 2018, and the Women Network has been in existence for over 8 years, and now we are launching all the National Chapters this is a great achievement for Namibia, and therefore like all other countries in Africa Namibia has joined the call to ensure that the Network of The Network of Women Elected officials of subnational and local governments of Africa (REFELA) becomes meaningful to our call for the promotion of women at local level.

He indicated that in order to ensure that the women in politics are given a space they need to organize themselves and regroup women members of the political bodies dealing with the governance at local authorities and governments of Africa. Today I am happy to launch such a successful occasion in Namibia which has already made strides in other African countries such as Cameroon, Morocco, Madagascar and Zimbabwe to mention a few.

He said it is a misconception that women do not like each other because Namibia through the SWAPO Party Zebra voting style has created a system whereby women will be left with no other hope but to take their space in light of development of our people. Thus I encourage the REFELA women network chapter in all the local authorities to approach the bottom up approach so that people are in charge and take responsibilities when they fail and vice versa when they succeed. I believe that with the fine-tuned tools and structures at local government level we will with no doubt archive coordinated efforts.

Allow me to agree with the President of REFELA, Célestine Ketcha Courtés, who recalled that "elected women are only 6% in Africa at the local level, when they are an average of 23% in the rest of the world; and the same way, they are less than 10% at the national level", and called on an active commitment from cities and local governments to "focus on the Agenda 2030, and especially SDG 5 on gender equality", in order to reverse this phenomenon. She also explained how Africa could make its own Agenda or Charter for Equality using the European Charter for Equality as an inspiration, and not as a model.



Hon Derek Klazen, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development

He instructed that all the 14 established Namibia REFELA network chapter in all Local authorities have to be incorporated in the budgetary mainstream of the local council and to have a budget that is aimed towards the supports and the development of Women leadership within our local governments, he emphasized that all the Mayors are here and they are taking note , as well as the inclusion of the concerns of Women in the definition and implementation of African cities and government's policies and strategies.

To that effect Namibia REFEAL Network chapters has to align their activities to its training action plan for 2019-2021, which is the launch of the three campaigns: 1. A campaign on African Cities without street children; 2. A campaign on African cities to zero tolerance of violence against women's ; 3. A campaign on Africa Cities favorable to Women's economic empowerment.

He was equally astonished to see the Man who really came out to support the initiative of this kind he encourage them to continue to support women in all their endeavors.

In his concluding statement he said “Women leaders share a collective responsibility to make their voice heard on the international stage and inspire future generations.” “women’s strength, action and capacity still have to be proven today” their militancy and the acknowledgment of rights and freedoms, and the involvement of men, the action of civil society and most importantly the legislative norms are essential conditions of equality between women and men”. Having said that therefore declare the Launch of the REFELA NAMIBIA WOMEN NETWORK CHAPTER IN ALL THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

2.8 Conclusions and closing remarks



Hon Kaino David

On behalf of the Otjozondjupa Town Council, Hon Kaino David thank God Almighty for his guidance and blessing that without him the occasion would not have been successful, she further thanked the Hon Deputy Minister of Urban Rural Development for taking time from his hectic schedule to bear witness and testify to the Namibian government and global society for this great achievement.

She further thanked Hon Katrina Shimbulu Vice President of REFELA Africa, and President of the Association of local Authorities in Namibia, for your continued commitment and dedication to foster this achievement this will go down in history. Thus continue to give us hope and we will not give up in fact you have told us that the work should continue.

The Special Advisor to the Governor Mr. John Khamuseb, for gracing them with his warm welcome. That the process will not be fruitful if it was not for our partners NALAO, they have released our councilors and they are well in attendance. Please Continue to support the cause of REFELA as we now lobby so that this activities are also incorporated in the strategic plan of the local Authorities please pass this appreciation to Mr. Walde Ndevashiya President of NALAO in absentia Members of the Board of ALAN, we thank you for approving this initiative it is indeed a force to be reckoned with in ALAN. Mayor of Otjiwarongo and all Mayors men mayors present. She thanked the ALAN Partners, All Honourable Councilors and Chief Executive Officer.

The Namibian REFELA Regional Commissioners that they have went through a lengthy workshop yesterday and they should continue to strive and work smart. She thanked the media because Namibia has made remarkable milestone.

3. RESOLUTIONS

This call for recommendations to the local authorities, their leaders, and their respective national associations in implementing the following resolutions namely:

3.1 To the REFELA Women Regional Commissioners

The workshop resolved that the Regional Commissioners present the budget to the respective Local authorities for adoption.

The workshop has agreed to start the initiative of the work plan especially with reference to data collection of the street children in the respective regions. In order to launch the various campaigns in order to tackle the existing problems before they become a crisis to our local constituencies.

The workshop has resolved that by the 31ST July 2019 information should be forwarded to the office of the Secretary General of the President of REFELA.

The workshop has agreed to further localize this process by ensuring that they will make a formal event of which the office of the President of REFELA SARO and the National Chairperson will be notified and invited to witness the occasion of the Regional Launch.

3.2 To Mayors and Locally elected officials

The Deputy Minister has instructed that all the 14 established Namibia REFELA network chapter in all Local authorities must be incorporated in the budgetary mainstream of the various Local

Authorities should have a budget that is aimed towards the supports and the development of Women leadership within our local Councils.

3.3 Acknowledgements of collaborations and sponsors

We would like to thank the Ministry of MURD for their continued financial and morale support for ensuring that the activities of the Association are not hampered.

4. ANNEXES ATTACHED TO THE REPORT SHOULD INCLUDE:

Annex 1: financial Report **Joseline**

Annex 2: List of participants with designation, address, phone number, e mail: All staff involved in planning and coordinating the training workshop **Joseline you have the list**

Annex 3: Details of any teaching /training materials used as reference materials including content

Annex 4: Programme agenda

Program Moderators: Hon. S. !Oë –Amseb and **insert**

Day 1: Friday, 14 June 2019	
10:00	Arrival and & Registration
15:00-18h00	Presentation of objectives of REFELA Discussion and Adoption of the REFELA Work Plan, 2019-2021 Signing of the Declaration by ALL REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS
	Dinner
Day 2: Saturday, 15 June 2019	
From 08:00	Arrival
Official Opening	
Director of Ceremonies: Hon.S.!Oë –Amseb and Hon. Hilde Jesaja	
10:00	Introduction
13:00	<i>Director of Ceremonies</i>

Welcoming Remarks:

Hon Otto Iipinge

Governor of Otjozondjupa

Remarks on behalf of the Partners:

Fabian Sampaya

Gender Links, Namibia Country Manager

Walde Ndevashiya

President of the Namibian Association of Local Authority Officials (NALAO)

REFELA Overview Background and Purpose of the Namibian Women Chapter Network by:

Hon Katrina Shimbulu , REFELA VICE President of Southern Africa and President of the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia

Signing of the Declaration

Mayor of Otjiwarongo Municipality & All Mayors present

Statement and introduction of the Keynote speaker by **Hon Georgina Mwiya** , National Commissioner of the REFELA Namibian Chapter

Keynote Address and Launch by Hon Dr. Peya Mushelenga

Minister of Minister of Urban and Rural Development

Vote of Thanks

Hon Kaino David

REFELA Otjozondjupa Commissioner

Lunch is served

@THE NETWORK OF WOMEN ELECTED OFFICIALS OF SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA

Sunday, 16 June 2019

Departure

