

PRESS RELEASE

“30 October 2018”



Headline: ALAN and AMICAALL AGM discuss the Local Authority Reform Paper and the implementation of the 2nd Land Conference Resolutions.

22 October 2018

Narraville - Walvisbay

Erongo Region

1. In his remark His Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Namibia Dr. Nangolo Mbumba presented by Hon. Dr. Zephania Kameeta , Minister of Poverty Eradication & Social Welfare indicated that he was pleased to officiate and exchange some thoughts on Local Government development at the 2nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN), and the Seventh Partners Orientation Conference of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Namibia (AMICAALL-Namibia), in our premier harbor town of Walvis Bay. Under the theme *“The Transition to Sustainable Towns and Territories, The Role of Local Authorities”*
2. His Excellency the Vice President further referred to the recently held successful 2nd Land Conference in which all Namibians and invited experts came together to provide solutions in a democratic and peaceful manner. The Vice President urged the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia to continue engaging the line Ministry of Urban and Rural Development until consensus is reached on issues of land and service delivery to communities.
3. The Association of Local Authorities in Namibia is representing 57 local authorities, met in Narraville - Walvisbay on the 18 – 21 to report, and track the progress we have made over the past years. The meeting deliberated on the long overdue policy of the Local Authority Reform paper that was topping the agenda points, for about 11 years we are still at the initial stage and this is because of the government administrative bureaucracy. Thus, the meeting resolved that the Management Committee be given a mandate to expedite the Law Reform Paper by engaging the Minister of Urban and Rural Development and the Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission.
4. The process to envision the Land Reform and Urban Development Strategy took an approach to have content and experts to enrich the plan from organizational representative amongst the presenters were;

- 4.1 The Shack Dwellers Federation-Presentation on Low Cost Housing in Namibia. According to the experiences and learnings of the Shack Dwellers Federation there is a need to continuously partner with Local Authorities on the Urban wide planning of Informal settlement upgrading to increase and improve access to land at the local level.

Based on information collected through studies by the Shack Dwellers Federation informal settlements and the back yards shacks on the waiting lists of prospects household persons indicates that there is a need to engage the community through participatory planning in development. The Learnings on capacity building program with stakeholders will inform the national strategic planning.

5. The AGM resolved that ALAN management committee should implement the recommendations from the Namibia Statistic Agency for the Local Authorities to put in place the land databases including housing to make national land audits simpler and faster. The Chief Executive Officers of Local Authorities must ensure the protection of copyright of the State by making sure that all products emanating from consultancy services by town planners and surveyors are retained to Local Authorities including digital data for preventing the double cost.

The AGM task the management committee to further engage the NSA to acquire accurate statistics on informal settlement in Namibia.

- 5.1 The AGM supports the resolutions of the National Land Conference on Urban Land, particularly to accelerate the flexible land tenure system in reducing the growth of Urban informal settlements.
- 5.2 The AGM equally discussed the issues relating to security, corruption, Gender Based Violence and the increase of poverty levels in our local Authorities. Some of these factors forces us to

change our planning from the traditional method of planning to smart cities.

5.3 The AGM resolved that all Local Authorities must convert to pre-paid water meters to avoid inhabitants incurring debts as a result of none payment of water bills, therefore the Local Authorities encourages a system of pre-paid water facilities.

5.4 The AGM equally resolved that ALAN must engage the buy-a-brick project of Standard Bank that will with no doubt elevate the social status of our people concerning housing.

6. The Minister of Urban and Rural Development Dr. Hon Peya Mushelenga emphasized during the official closing of the 2nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN), and the 7th AMICAALL Annual Partners Orientation Conference of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Namibia (AMICAALL-Namibia) in our premier harbor town of Walvis Bay, also put emphasis on the importance of paying membership fees and that the government will continue to assist the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) as part of its commitment. However, membership fees should be the main source which the Association should derive its revenue. Thus, the AGM resolved that all Local Authorities must pay all their outstanding membership fees both in arrears and current.

7. The AGM resolved that the Namibia Commissioner REFELA should establish the regional commissioners in all the 14 Regions.

8. The AGM resolved that the Management Committee must enter into various Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Stakeholders and Partners, amongst others, with the National Youth Council, to provide the local authorities with clear needs in order to meet the youth demands, particularly with regards to housing.

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