



**Integration of Namibia
Local Authorities in the European Cooperation
Programming Process
2021-2027**

ANALYTICAL REPORT



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December 2020

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Acronyms

ACP:	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
ALAN:	Association of Local Authorities in Namibia
AMICAALL	Alliance of Mayors Initiatives for community Action on Aids at the Local level
APR:	Annual Plan Review
APs:	Annual Plans
DCI:	Development Cooperation Instrument
EC:	European Commission
EIDHR:	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
EU:	European Union
LA:	Local Authority
LAA	Local Authority Act
LRG:	Local and Regional Government
MTEF:	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MURD:	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
NALAN:	National Association of Local Authorities in Namibia
NDPs:	National Development Plans
NIP:	National Indicative Programme
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals
SPs:	Strategic Plans
TA:	Traditional Authority
TALD:	Territorial Approach to Local Development
TOR:	Terms of Reference
UCLG Africa:	United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
VNR	voluntary National Review

Abstract

Namibia was the last former colony on the African continent to attain independence on March 21, 1990. The country is a larger strip of land of sparsely populated on the south-west coast of Africa, bordering South Africa to the south, Angola and Zambia to the north and Botswana to the east. However, the country which ranks 126 of 177 countries on the [Human Development Index](#) still bears the consequences of the social and economic inequalities inherited from settler-colonialism buttressed by the diabolic apartheid system. The situation of inequality in the distribution of income and assets is among the highest in the world in the post-colonial Namibia.

The Government of Namibia adopted decentralization as a national policy in 1998. The policy seeks to promote participatory democracy and sustainable development for the benefit of all Namibians. It provides opportunities for the populace to have access to participative platforms, thereby extending democracy to the people as a right based on national Ideas.

1. Introduction

Decentralisation of functions from National Government to Regional and Local Governments in Namibia started with the establishment of Regional and Local Authority Governments as provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia¹. However, despite the establishment of sub-national governments, the decentralisation process in its current form started after the enactment of the Decentralisation Enabling Act 2000 (Act no. 33 of 2000). This report provides an analysis of the implementation of decentralisation in Namibia as depicted by the current reality. It proceed from the assumption that the implementation of decentralisation will ensure efficiency in taking services to the people as opposed to centralised service provision. It further advances from the premises that full realisation of the decentralization at regional and local authority levels ensure **territorialisation** and **localisation** of development agendas. The report forms the basis of the preparation for the national seminar of LAs to be held in consultation with the National Government and the European Union during the month of August 2020, while at the same time paving the way for the possible inclusion of LAs in the Namibia – EU cooperation agreement 2021 – 2027.

¹ Article 102 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

2. Implementation of Decentralisation in Namibia

The idea of decentralisation in Namibia dates back to the era before the country's independence. The SWAPO PARTY through its election manifesto of 1989 recognized the importance of participatory democracy and the need for people to be the forerunners of their own development². Thus, one of the first assignments of the independent Namibia was to draft the constitution in which all fundamental rights and principles regarding the organisation and governance of Namibia are entrenched. As such, decentralisation started with the establishment of regional and local governments. These subnational governments formed part of the commitment of the supreme law the Constitutional commitment.

The main fundamental principles of decentralisation in Namibia are based on two goals: *participatory democracy* and *sustainable development*. The cardinal point is that decentralization was implemented to ensure effective and efficient management of the national development programs at regional and local authority levels. Its implementation is further to ensure localization and territorialization of government policies, programs, strategies and plans that were previously dictated at the national government level. The Decentralization Enabling Act no.33 of 2000 is the central document guiding this process. Under this Act, decentralisation of functions from the line Ministries to the Regional and Local Authority Governments in Namibia is both promulgated and implemented, based on a three tiers of governance provided for by the legislative framework as reflected below.

<p>Central government Represented by Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD)</p>
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² SWAPO Party election manifesto (1989)

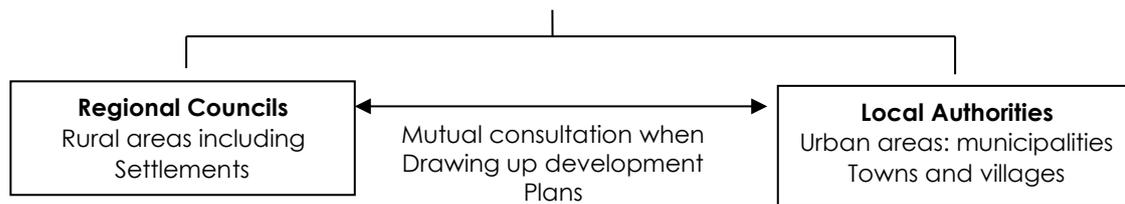


Diagram 1: government Structure

Though LAs are within the boundaries of specific regions, from diagram 1 above it become obvious that there are no linear relationship between the regional and local authority governments as both are individually directly accountable to the central government. The social disconnect between RC and LAs may be a good recipe for a fragmented approach to development agenda setting, or a dissimilar development planning and strategy formulation. Thus, resulting in the duplication of functions and resource allocation.

Soon after gaining her independence, Namibia abolished the ethnic borders corresponding to the principles behind the "separate development" policy of the colonial era. In relation to decentralisation in Namibia, the territorial division consists of two levels of government: the regions (in total there are 14 regions) with 121 constituencies, and the local authorities comprising of 57 municipalities, towns and village councils. The regional and LA councillors are elected through a democratic process across the country. The last regional and local authority elections were held in November 2015 concretizing the existence of democratic system.

In a nutshell, the perception is that decentralization includes Regional Governments (RG), Local Governments (LG), civil societies (CS) and the Private Sector (PS)ⁱ. The rationale for transfer of responsibilities is to ensure economic efficiency, public accountability and empowerment of LAsⁱⁱ. Thus, taking services to the people at grassroot level. Though decentralization was a good initiative on the part of government, decentralization of some functions was

only made to the RGs, leaving the LAs out of the process. The map below reflects the territorial division of the country into 14 regions.

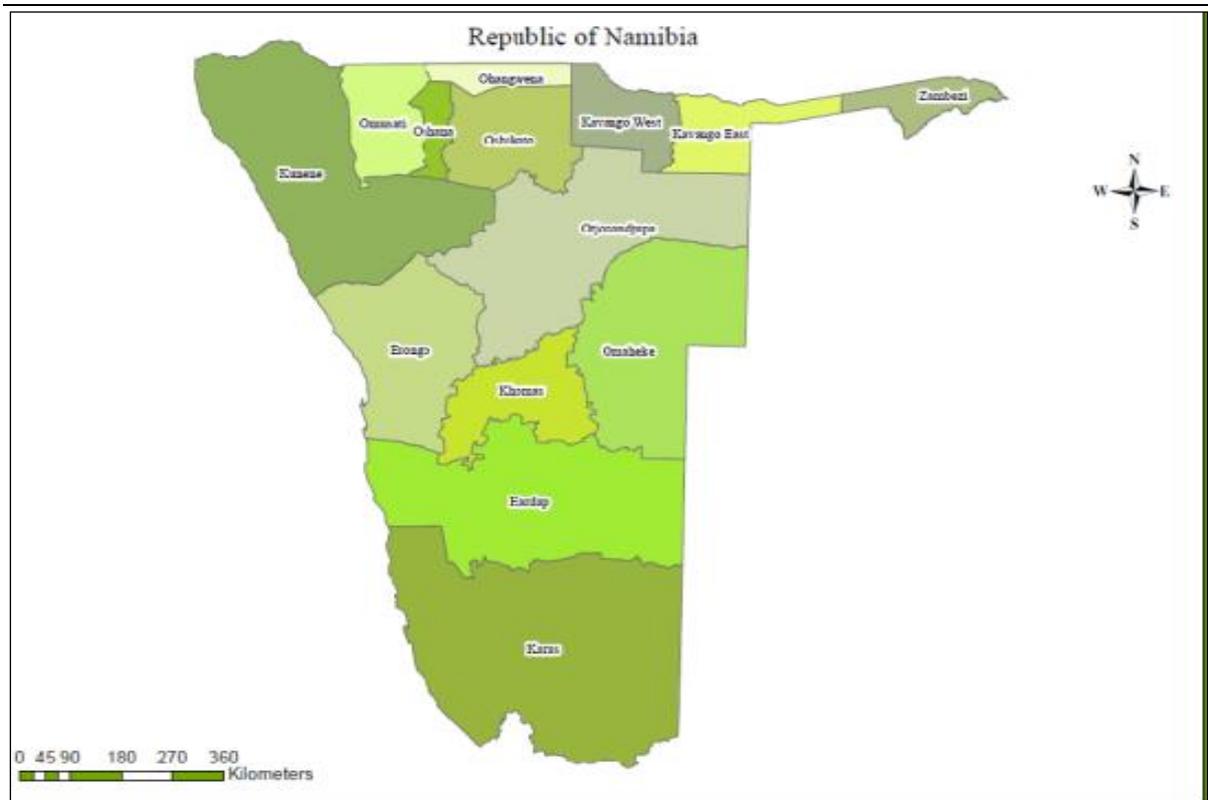


Figure 1. The Namibian map depicting the fourteen regions

3. Decentralization in Namibia the current trend

The 11th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) classified Namibia to be amongst the upper middle income countries in 2009. Nonetheless, the country is still experiencing high poverty rates, youth unemployment and skills deficiencies. Furthermore, the NIP found the macro-economic condition of Namibia to be sound³. Notwithstanding these positive ratings, the program recognized numerous challenges facing Namibia such as: the widespread poverty at 29%, severe income inequality with a Gini coefficient of 0.58%; high unemployment 33.8%; high HIV/AIDS pandemic prevalence and climate

³ National Indicative Programme 2014 to 2020 EU – Namibia cooperation agreement

volatility . However, according to the SDGs voluntary national review (2018)⁴, the Gini coefficient has dropped to 0.56 by 2018. Notwithstanding the positive record on the Gini coefficient, Namibia is classified among the top ten most unequal countries in the world and considerable disparities still exist in terms of who has access to sustainable income, productive assets, food, water, energy and basic services VNR (2018). Currently, the socio-economic situation in Namibia is being exacerbated by COVID-19, a global pandemic. The effect of COVID-19 has resulted in more job losses and drop in income necessary for the livelihood of the citizens.

Due to the fact that the economic activities in Namibia are mainly characterized by extraction of raw material without value addition, the rural areas are still under developed. Lack of employment at local level leads to high rate of urban migration particularly among the young people; making it difficult for urban centers to make the much needed services available.

Despite the 2014 – 2020 cooperation agreement entered into between the EU and Namibia, there is slow implementation of decentralization, this is further exacerbated by the fact that as indicated above decentralization in Namibia has not been extended to LAs. On the one hand this approach presents minimum impact to local development; while on the other hand line ministries retained the control on core line functions. This move translates in limitations to "*territorialization and localization*" of development at local levels. Lack of the decentralization plan with clearly identified deadlines attributes to the delay in the implementation process.

Since attaining independence in 1990, Namibia has been a unitary state that regards decentralisation as an important priority for public governance as provided for by the Constitution. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia is silent on issue of decentralisation. The

⁴ Republic of Namibia (2018). Implementation of sustainable development goals: voluntary national review

details on decentralization were left to the legislature to develop and define LG responsibilities as and when so required. Further, with the ratification of decentralization in 1997, the process was to start with deconcentration, then progress to the “*delegation*” of responsibilities and thereafter move to the “*devolution*” stage. However, decentralization is still at its infant stage as ministries seem to be reluctant to do comprehensive decentralization of functions to LAs. The table below highlights the status of the implementation of decentralization in Namibia.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At policy level, the process of Decentralization enjoys supportive political leadership. ▪ There are functional National Development Plans in place. ▪ Well demarcated and manageable regional and local authorities. ▪ Democratic system in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited willingness for ministries to decentralize ▪ Critical skills deficiency amongst LAs ▪ Insufficient budgetary allocation ▪ Limited sources of revenue for LAs to be financial self-sustainable ▪ Lack of serviced infrastructure ▪ Slow implementation in the process of decentralization ▪ Rural brain drain due to youth migration to urban areas
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well established urban centres ▪ Capacity building ▪ Abandoned raw material ▪ Wide agricultural opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High unemployment rate ▪ Poverty ▪ High level of inequality ▪ Climate change ▪ Natural disaster (Covid-19) ▪ Urban migration in search for employment

Table 1.1 SWOT analysis of the implementation of decentralization in Namibia

4. Namibia CEE ratings for 2014 – 2020

Decentralisation was one of the priorities in the Second National Development Programme. Though Articles 102 to 111 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia explicitly stipulates the establishment of regional and local governments, the constitution left the definition of responsibilities to the legislative body to determine. As a result, series of laws and regulations have been passed under the Constitution to translate the political will on decentralisation into reality. These are:

- Local Authorities Act of 1992 (amended in 2000);
- Regional Councils Act of 1992 (amended in 2000);
- Decentralisation Enabling Act of 2000;
- Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provisions Act of 2000;
- Decentralization Policy (1997);
- Decentralization in Namibia the Policy, its development and implementation (1998); and
- Decentralization performance: Functions – Rules – Procedures (2000)

In the context of Namibia, LGs have their own revenues with classic local taxes on developed property and economic activities. They have freedom to set local tax rates under the control (*authorization*) of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (*section 73 of the Local Authority Act*). However, though the decentralisation policy has defined municipal responsibilities, this is done without increasing their budgets. As a result, many municipalities increasingly resort to delegating delivery of services to the private sector as an alternative to providing essential services to the populace. Further resulting in reliance of LAs on partnerships with private sector to deliver services. From this standpoint, 'LGs seem to be facilitators or regulators of service delivery rather than providers of such services.

Beside the fact that LAs have the right to hire and fire their staff, from the CEE rating it became worrisome that LAs in Namibia has neither a national framework of reference defining the qualifications and responsibilities nor a national strategy to build the capacities of local administrators. Nevertheless, LAs are allowed to define their frameworks of reference detailing staff qualifications and responsibilities in an autonomous manner and to undertake staff capacity building programmes. Below is a snapshot of the findings based on the CEE ratings of 2014 to 2020:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Policy and Plan of Action in place 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs are allowed to define frameworks of reference detailing staff qualifications and responsibilities • LGs have set up local spaces for consultation in the field. • Freedom to set local tax rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of national framework of reference defining the qualifications and responsibilities of staff members • No specific laws on citizen participation at local level • Lack of legislation on assessment of LG' performance • No elaborated National urban strategy • Fighting climate change does not involve local and regional governments.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive political environment in Namibia • increasing their budgets • amend the law to provide LAs full autonomy to run and account for their performances • Develop national strategy to build the capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing political context and citizenry expectations • Legitimacy and accountability • Changing purpose of governance

Table 1.1 SWOT analysis of the CEE ratings for Namibia 2014 - 2020

5. Political Economy in Namibia

In the context of this report, political stability and the growth of economy are viewed as critical determinant factors for national development. This is so because both can exert influence on one another to ensure enabling political and economic environment. Thus, politics and the economy are inseparable. Taking cognisance of the prevailing economic situation in Namibia, challenges posed by poverty, unemployment, and rural migration to urban centres are known and clear⁵. Given the small and shrinking LAs fiscal base and service backlog, the government of the Republic of Namibia has embarked upon the decentralisation of functions to regional and local governments.

At the political level, the government of the Republic of Namibia seems genuinely committed to improve the social-economic wellbeing of the Namibian people. Having the interest of the people of Namibia at heart, the existing political will is demonstrated through not only the democratic system

⁵ This sentiments were also echoed by Bekker (2013). Politics and policies governing cities in Africa

of governance but, through decentralization of functions to local governments which is a living testimony. However, to achieve workable decentralization, the political will should be accompanied by appropriate resources allocation both material and human capital capable to execute government strategies. One can confidently say that the government is doing all possible to ensure that services are taken to the people through the process of decentralization.

The term "territorialization" relates to the degree of ownership given to the LAs to manage the affairs of LG. All LAs in Namibia are having autonomy to plan, manage, setting strategies and programs for the LAs. Evolutionary, the main national plans and national sectoral policies, can only be achieved once central government fully devolve functions to the regional and local governments. The objectives pursued by government in decentralizing functions clearly shows the existence of a strong national commitment to integrate LAs in the development of the country. However, complete territorialization needs to be translated into specific plans, policies and programs with a clear implementation plans. It also calls for strengthened financial mechanism and ownership at local level in order to ensure sustainability.

The level of autonomy given to the LAs to plan and run their activities with minimum supervision demonstrates Central Government's confidence in LAs as genuine "development actors" in their own right and an essential partners to be associated with in the implementation of national development policies and strategies. Nonetheless, if LAs are to succeed in the territorialization and localization of national strategies, more effort needs to be made to capacitate them in terms of finance, human and technical capabilities. These are the pre-requisite for ensuring sustainable development at local levels.

The LAs in Namibia have the general mandate to manage and control resources. This is contemplated in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. However, territorial approach to Local Development (TALD), spearheaded by

the LAs on the basis of their general mandate need to be enhanced. Moreover, for LAs to become effective in the implementation of decentralization, there is a need for the transfer of competency and resources necessary from central government to LAs.

The Status report on decentralization policy implementation of 2017, confirms the need for the introduction of reform to be made including the inclusion of decentralization in the ministerial Strategic Plans, proper coordination and enforcement of compliance by decentralizing ministries⁶.

6. Proposed Reforms

Taking cognisance of the political economy in Namibia and the CEE rating report on the 2014 – 2020 NIP, one would agree with the proposed reforms set forward by the report because of its validity toward decentralization. Also that Namibia scored 27 points out of 48, obviously there is a need for Namibia to introduce reforms in order to progress toward enabling environment for cities and local governments⁷.

6.1. Financial transfers to local governments

The first reform should address the financial transfers from the central government to LGs. While LGs have their own revenue sources and the ability to determine the base and rates of local taxes, the transfer system is less effective, because of *ad hoc* transfers, unpredictable and irregular amounts. The main source of transfers is the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision set up by law in 2000 with the aim to address institutional capacity disparities between regional and local authorities. In order for the transfer to be effective, population density and overall social and economic demands should determine the size of the transfers.

⁶ Ministry of Urban and Rural Development: Status report on Decentralisation Policy Implementation (2017)

⁷ CEE rating for the period 2014 - 2020

The central government provides grants to not only newly established village councils, regional councils and city councils that do not yet have a sufficient income base, but to all LAs in Namibia for one reason or another. The central government also allocates grants for infrastructure development to the local governments from time to time. The Mass Housing scheme is one good example central to this practice on the part of the central government. Additionally, the LAA of 1992 stipulates that the LAs must transfer five percent of their revenue to the RGs which in many cases does not materialise due to inability of LAs to do so.

Can any data provided to support these appreciations?

The reforms should clarify various transfers and ensure their complementarity to make LAs more effective and efficient. **A prerequisite to this reform is, however, estimating the cost of the responsibilities that must be transferred to the local level in order to offset the vertical imbalance between spheres of government.** Regional and local specific dynamics should play a role in the allocation of funds.

Who will initiate this cost estimates, and how the findings will be used? Experience shows that most line ministries are reluctant to this kind of assessment, and that if not challenged by parliament, the national government is not keen to speed up the needed adjustments.

6.2. Assignment of functions to LG

The second line of reform concerns clarification of responsibilities that the line ministries must transfer to local governments. The decentralisation policy focused on how better to divide the duties and functions that line ministries have to decentralise to the regional and local governments. Accurate information should be provided here.

Secondly, Namibia is to move from the division in operational regions to decentralised regions with all economic sectors that are relevant to improved performance of the LAs with capacity building as part of this movement.

Consequently, the line ministries must enumerate the staff allocated to implement the responsibilities to be transferred. The envisaged transfer of staff should accompany the transfer of responsibilities. There is also a need to set a schedule for the transfer of responsibilities. **The plan must concentrate not only on the possibility of transferring additional human resources that exist in the various ministries to the local governments but, also consider hiring new staff when personnel cannot be obtained from within the LG institutions. Also, there is a need for the reform to promote cooperative governance between LGs and codify the implementation modalities by proclaiming the principle of non-subordination of one level of LG to another.**

6.3. Local public spending

Since Namibia's independence, public spending has been a challenge to LAs. Thus, the need for the reform initiatives to focus on improving the quality of public spending by LAs. Though audit is already in existence, the audit system must be reinforced to improve financial management by LGs. According to the various laws and regulations, three institutions are responsible for auditing the books of LGs: The Office of the Ombudsman, the Office of the Auditor-General, and the Namibian Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), making audit systematic mandatory will help LAs to demonstrate increased transparency and accountability in the execution of its mandate to serve the citizenry. Is there an update information on the evaluation of the management of local authorities by the Auditor General of NAMFISA? What lessons can be drawn from it?

6.4. Urban strategy

Although Vision 2030 devotes considerable attention to the issues of migration, urbanisation, and population distribution, to date Namibia does not have urban strategy. In 2015, Namibia was 46 per cent urbanised, and experts predict that this will move up to 68 per cent in 2050 (*World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision*). The main factors encouraging rapid urbanisation in the country is rural-to-urban migration, mainly among young men and

women in search for economic opportunities normally more available in urban centres than in rural areas. The urban strategy will make the urban structure an authentic tool for territorial planning and the balanced development of the country.

6.5. Climate change

Namibia is a semi-arid country characterised by a very volatile and precarious climate condition, often expressing themselves in devastating drought. The last reform focused on the effective contribution of regional and LGs in the implementation of NDCs. Over the years, Namibia had experienced hard and difficult climatic condition resultant from below average rain fall. In response, government drafted the drought relief program which was implemented across the country's 14 regions. Drought relief food parcels were received from various donor agencies and non-governmental organisations. This trend is indicative of the need to create affordable access to climate funds and to address issues of capacity challenges at local level. It become critical to build capacity of regional and LGs to develop concrete and measurable action plans geared towards mitigating the impact of climate change at local levels.

7. Association of Local Authorities in Namibia

The Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) was established way before independence as a platform where the local authorities would come together to share expertise, experiences and network. However, noting the changing political and economic climate as well as the role of LAs in an independent Namibia, it became pertinent for **ALAN to review its mandate, aims and objectives to that of being the dynamic, self-sustaining organization that plays an advocacy role on behalf of the LAs⁸ with the view to promote and assist its members to address socio-economic challenges. The table below reflect on the status of ALAN in Namibia.**

⁸ Article of association for local authorities in Namibia

<p>Strength</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All declared LAs are members of ALAN • ALAN represent all 57 LAS in various platforms • ALAN lobby, advocate for its members • Lobbying and advocacy strategy in place and upgraded with the UCLG support. • plays a role in capacity building of the local authorities for both political office bearers and administrators • ALAN is currently training 12 LAs on Inspiring Service Excellence funded by the Trust Fund in Partnership with Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). • Service Improvement and tariff settings for LAs in partnership with EU and the Swedish Association • trained and developed the Gender Policies in Local Authorities through Gender Links 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALAN is not recognize as a bargaining unit for LAs in Namibia • LAs employees' terms and conditions of serves depend NAPWU which is the representative union • Insufficient staff members to perform the duties of ALAN • Skills deficiency amongst staff members • Insufficient funding
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good and effective network with MURD, ARC, and NALAO 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing political landscape • Changing role of the LAs

8. Findings and capacity enhancement recommendation

Representation: Any of the 57 LAs that has been declared as a local authority in terms of the Local Authorities Act no. 23 of 1992 as amended becomes a member of ALAN. ALAN represents all 57 LAs in Namibia and serves as their representative on various key platforms such as the Water Cooperation, Planning Board. However, **ALAN is not recognized as a bargaining unit for LAs in Namibia** due to the fact that employees of the LAs have an existing recognition agreements with Namibia Public Workers Union (NAPWU). Nonetheless, it was agreed between ALAN, NALAO, NAPWU and MURD for the drafting of a tripartite agreement to allow ALAN to negotiate employees' terms and conditions of serves.

Lobbying and Advocacy: The lobbying and advocacy strategy is in place and was updated with support from UCLGA. To ensure effective execution of its mandates, the association Lobbys and advocates on behalf of r its members; supports, advices and assist its members on a range of issues effecting its members. This includes strategic profiling at both national and international level.

Services to members: The Association plays a key role in capacity building of the LAs. It further ensures technical capacity building for political leadership and technocrats (administrative officials). Also, it serve as the custodian of local government knowledge and communication hub.

Projects and programmes: Currently ALAN is training 12 local Authorities on Inspiring Service Excellence funded by the Trust Fund in Partnership with Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). The association has conducted a number of pilot projects such as: developing the toolkits on Local Economic Development (LED); Service Improvement and tariff settings for LAs in partnership with EU and the Swedish Association; Crime and Violence Prevention in LAs in cooperation with the Urban Trust (UT); Long Term Strategic Plans with some LAs funded by the World Bank; trained LAs on HIV/AIDS, Health and Wellness through AMICAALL-NAMIBIA; as well as it has trained and developed the Gender Policies in LAs through Gender Links.

Networking: Nationally, there is a good and effective network between ALAN and MURD, ARC and NALAO as its technical advisory partner on matters pertaining to administration. There are also corporate partnership with public institutions such as Standard Bank Namibia and PricewaterhouseCoopers as well as cooperation with Civil Society groups such as NANGOF and the Urban Trust of Namibia.

Since 2007, ALAN has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with the Botswana Association for Local Authorities (BALA) and the South African Local

Government Association (SALGA) with a view to share expertise, experience and lobby for the international local governments. At international level, ALAN is a member of UCLG Africa and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

Structure: The **Congress** is the principle organ governing ALAN. When Congress is not in seating, the **General Assembly** will govern the affairs of the Association, and if the General Assembly is not in session the **Board/ Management** takes charge. If the Board is not in session the **Executive Committee** shall serve as the governing organ of ALAN. This implies that the Congress may delegate its powers, duties and functions to the General Assembly, Board, or Executive Committee or President. The General Assembly may similarly delegate its powers, duties and functions to the Board, Executive Committee or President. While the Board may with the approval of the General Assembly, in writing delegate its powers, duties and functions to the Executive Committee. Also, the Executive Committee may with the approval of the Board, delegate in writing its powers, duties and functions to the President. In terms of the staff establishment (structure), ALAN has three staff members in its establishment namely; the Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Administrative Officer and an Administration Clerk. When the need arise, the Association make use of volunteers and internship students.

Availability of office space: ALAN is hosted by the City of Windhoek along with ARC and NALAO. The office space is very limited and does not provide sufficient space required for the proper functioning of the Association.

Availability of strategic plan: ALAN has a strategic plan (SP) in place. However, such SP is currently under review and is hoped to be finalised by September 2020.

Availability of communication strategy: Communication strategy is in place and was developed with the support of UCLG Africa.

Democratic governance: The process of filling of positions by politicians in the Association follows the democratic principles in that office bearers are elected into position of leadership. However, the filling of administrative position is done in accordance with the principle of administrative justice. This implies that, before filling the position in the staff establishment, opportunity is created for all qualifying candidates to apply. This conforms to the democratic principles of good governance.

Financial sustainability plan: Although there is no formal financial sustainability plan, there is a standing resolution for resource moralization through joint ventures

9. Conclusion

- The quest for achieving complete decentralisation of functions to LGs in Namibia underlies the importance LAs participation in all economic activities at local level. Also, provision of autonomy to regional and LA governments to plan, implement and manage the performance under their jurisdictions is fundamental if Namibia is to succeed in achieving territorial approach to local development. It is significant to note that more still need to be done to make sure that all stakeholders in Namibia are well informed and aware of the need for decentralisation. Moreover, to ensure the achievement of devolution of functions to LGs in Namibia, the main challenges highlighted in the voluntary national review (2018), need to be addressed. These include the shortage of financial resources; human resource capital and introduction of quality disaggregated data to enable government to design targeted programmes to address poverty in Namibia⁹.

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