

INCLUSIVE APPROACHES TO AWARENESS RAISING AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS -THE ROLE OF THE THE ESWATINI LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (ELGA)



**NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING
WORKSHOP ON IMPROVED LOCAL
AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
CAPACITIES FOR LOCALIZING SDGS
THROUGH VOLUNTARY LOCAL
REVIEW IN ESWATINI**

**ESIBAYENI LODGE, MATSAPHA, 15-
17 OCTOBER 2024**

INTRODUCTION



Eswatini Local Government
Association

10/16/2024

PRESENTATION FOR ELGA DIRECTOR

ELGA AS CHAMPION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ESWATINI

SECTION 218 -220 OF THE 2005 NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Who is ELGA



- All Cities and towns and by extension Councillors, elected or appointed are members of ELGA.
- No discrimination. All Councillors whether from Municipal, Town or Board, we are all the same before the law.
- ELGA in its operations has given birth to the following; AMICAALL (Mayors/Chairpersons), ELAMA (technical wing), and ESIGA (social wing that include municipal games, and Genderlinks).
- All 17 SDGs apply to the urban local government space.
- Urban government sector is another important and functional unit of local democracy and meaningful community engagement.

10/16/2024

PRESENTATION FOR ELGA DIRECTOR

WHO IS ELGA CONT

- Cabinet decision of 2012 recognising SWALGA, now ELGA, as a partner to government to propel development at the local level. We are the second tier of government.
- Development Partners such as the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), British Government (Jo Cox Foundation), UNDP and Green Climate Fund, have been supporting the development of local government.
- The Ministry requested the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) to provide technical support to strengthen ELGA.
- The overall purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the role of ELGA as a strategic partner in the localisation of initiatives in propelling the SDG Agenda.

WHO IS ELGA CONT.....

- Defender of Bills and advocacy on issues affecting local government in general.
- Assist Minister responsible for local government on issues that affects the sector
- Lobby Parliamentarians and other Stakeholders, on all aspects of good urban governance.
- ELGA has a role to represent Eswatini in regional, continental and international local government organisations and must have capacity to do so.
- ELGA is expected to support the 15 urban local authorities in planning, programming and implementation of the sustainable goals and prioritising the localisation of the SDGs designed to spark innovative, replicable ideas for improvising cities, and the lives of people living in them by encouraging leaders to think outside the box about how to confront their most difficult challenges

BARCELONA SDG LOCAL SOLUTIONS – NOVEMBER 5 – 9, 2024

- ELGA invited by UNDP and the Barcelona Provincial Council to share ideas on how to innovate local government management with a view to finding local solutions on SDGs
- Agenda 2030 is providing inspiration for local and regional governments around the world to do things differently, bringing different aspects of development together, addressing different SDGs themes at the same time breaking silos, or planning and budgeting in a different way.
- More importantly, the Agenda 2030 provides a new “spirit” of doing things based on the principle of leaving no one, and no place, behind.
- ELGA lauds Ministry of Economic Planning and the UN system for recognizing that to achieve the sustainable goals, they include urban local government, as one important stakeholder, as evident by this week’s workshop.

ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH ELGA

- ELGA is now regionally, continentally and globally respected as a National Association.
- ELGA was instrumental in the capacity development of local government practitioners who recently completed their Executive Master's Programme in Morocco.
- ELGA has been able to attract international and foreign Governments' financial support (Joe Cox, CLGF, FAO and UNDP sustainable livelihoods programme)
- Local Economic Development projects have been successfully implemented over the past 10 years
- Currently implementing the GCF-funded project, "Preparing the Urban and Peri-Urban Communities of Eswatini to build a Better and More Sustainable future for Cities and their Residents"
- FAO supported Project amounting to over E16 million - Green Cities Readiness Project

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

- This initiative started this week, is appreciated by the sector even though it seems to have taken a long time to recognize the strategic role of institutions like ELGA, representing local government, as a strategic partner towards meeting the sustainable goals.
- ELGA through the Urban Local Authorities is committed to supporting such initiatives.
- ELGA hopes that the ongoing process to develop the Tinkhundla Administration Bill will not derail the the Urban Government Sector especially on the positive gains thus far, especially on meeting Goal 11 of the SDGs



10/16/2024

PRESENTATION FOR ELGA DIRECTOR

THANK YOU!

