



Action for becoming a credible CSO in Namibian communities (CCSO)

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Dear Madam Ambassador Jana Hybaskova and your dedicated EU-Team, your Excellency Mr. Speaker Prof. Peter Katjavivi, fellow civil society members, members of the diplomatic corps, dear project partners, CSOAG-members, dear media fraternity ... all protocol observed.

Today marks a special milestone in our mutual corporation. 18 month ago, the European Union, Konrad Adenauer Foundation and its project partners NID and IMLT embarked on this civil society capacity building project to ensure that our civil society organisations are credible partners to assist and represent their communities in this development discourse.

This project titled “**Action for becoming a credible CSO in Namibian Communities**” is funded jointly by the European Union and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation is a German Think Tank that operates in 80 countries around the world. We promote good governance, Rule of Law and Civic Education while partnering with governance institutions, civil society organisations in the private and public sector.

The CCSO-project is jointly funded by the European Union (EU) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) to the tune of €749,281.00 in total. The sum is equivalent to N\$13 Million. The project is currently implemented in partnership with the Namibia Institute of Democracy (NID) and Institute of Management and Leadership Training (IMLT). The project duration is 36 months (April 2016- April 2019) and it is implemented in 5 regions: Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Erongo, Omaheke and Hardap respectively. It directly benefits 10 CSOs per region who were selected based on their activities in the community, duration of existence and compliance with the law e.g. registration. The CSO advisory group

Implemented by:



(CSOAG) serves as a steering committee to advise on the implementation of the project.

At this stage the program has reached more than 66 members of CSOs in the five regions. The CSOs involved in this project work in the fields of culture & heritage, gender activism as well as health related fields, people living with disabilities, farming, substance abuse rehabilitators and from the Vocational Training Field training. The first three training modules have been conducted in the fields of organisational, operational, financial and administrative skills and enhancement of constituent engagement and public participation.

For the remaining 18 month we plan to continue the CSO-capacity building programs with modules such as enhancing the strategic thinking, analytical and advocacy skills of our CSO-members, training the CSOs on lobbying for important bills and law reforms increasing the understanding of CSOs regarding Public Private Partnership, CSO-Public Private Partnership between GRN and the CSOs and inviting the CSOs to Parliament to engage with the Parliamentary Standing Committees.

Please feel free to visit our KAS office here in Windhoek to familiarise yourself with this important project. Feel free to ask the CSO-members here present about their important community work and please support us in making Namibians CSO credible partners to work with.

I thank you

Thomas Keller
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Windhoek