

UCLGA SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE



Newsletter - Inaugural Issue, July 2012

Foreword by the President



Cllr Charles Mumena, UCLGA-SARO President

As President of UCLGA-SARO I am excited to officially launch the inaugural issue of the SARO newsletter. Since the launch of SARO in 2008, the organisation has continued to grow despite disagreements over the issue of the UCLGA headquarters.

The ARIAL programme provided the much needed financial support to operationalise the SARO offices.

I see SARO as a think tank for solutions to challenges facing local government in the region, I desire to see SARO providing technical support to the SADC Ministers of Local Government Forum through provision of informed research on alternative policy proposal, I also cherish to see SARO as a learning organization sharing and replicating best practices that enhance service delivery to the communities who are the final beneficiaries.

I see SARO's mandate going beyond dialogue on regional issues to include input into policy discussion on issues like the Cotonou Agreement.

There should be discourse around issues of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Climate Change, international debt and development just to mention a few. These issues have far reaching consequences on the livelihoods of our communities. I invite you all to join me in celebrating this milestone.

Welcome Note from the Interim Secretary General



Mr Perkins Francis Duri, UCLGA-SARO Interim SG

The launch of the inaugural issue of the UCLGA-SARO e-newsletter is a milestone in the development and growth of SARO. Since its launch in Harare in 2008 SARO has been active at SADC level and has been able to engage the Ministers of Local Government which culminated in the signing of an MOU between the SADC Minister of Local Government and Local Government association despite lack of funding from development partners.

Through the newsletter SARO seeks to enhance its visibility regionally and internationally and strengthen knowledge sharing among its membership. It is our hope that the newsletter will promote interaction between SARO and its diverse stakeholder community.

The funding that has been made available to SARO under the EU funded ARIAL programme

has enabled SARO to recruit two staff members and setting up an office in Harare.

We need to acknowledge the support we receive from the political leadership of SARO and the Secretary Generals which has made our work at SARO easy to manage.

We expect the next issue to start capturing developments taking place among our membership. We welcome all our members and readers to participate in sustaining this newsletter by sending comments and articles for publication.

Introducing the SARO Technical Team

As part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between UCLGA-SARO and VNG on the ARIAL Programme, two technical officers have been recruited to support the Interim Secretary General of UCLGA-SARO in the implementation of ARIAL activities.



Mr Samuel Kaninda, a local government specialist from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), is the Senior Technical Officer. Before joining UCLGA-SARO in March 2012, Samuel was with the UCLGA Secretariat in Pretoria, South Africa, where he had been involved in a variety of portfolios ranging from membership recruitment and administration to knowledge management, communications and project management. Samuel also contributed to the conceptualisation, and coordinated the implementation of UCLGA donor funded projects on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Water & Sanitation, and HIV/AIDS & Local Government.



Mrs. Estery Madavo, an Urban Planner from Zimbabwe, is the Technical Officer. Estery's key areas of competencies include policy formulation, strategy

development,, research and knowledge management, institutional capacity building and project management. Estery has extensive experience in town planning under local government. She also has experience in Humanitarian and Social Accountability with organisations such as World Vision. Before joining UCLGA-SARO in February 2012, Estery worked as a consultant.

The ARIAL Programme is an EU-funded project whose overall objective is to promote the political recognition and engagement of local governments as important players and partners of development. The programme runs from August 2010 to August 2013. In Southern Africa, UCLGA-SARO and Local Government Associations in Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are beneficiaries of the ARIAL Programme. Other countries in the region with no existing LGAs such as Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho and Madagascar are being invited to some of the UCLGA-SARO meetings as part of efforts to assist them in establishing LGAs.

For more information on the ARIAL Programme, please visit: www.arial-programme.eu

SARO adopts Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015

The UCLGA-SARO Strategic Plan 2012-2015 was adopted at the Ordinary Executive Committee Meeting of the regional local government association held in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 25 June 2012. The Plan defines UCLGA-SARO's key mandates (Advocacy and Lobbying; Capacity Building and Resource Mobilisation; Knowledge Sharing between LGAs; and Profiling of LGAs) and outlines its strategic priorities, objectives and key intervention areas for the next four years.

UCLGA-SARO's key objectives for 2012-2015 include, among others:

- To strive for decentralisation in SADC policies, strategies and programmes
- To give a unified voice to local governments in Southern Africa in regional dialogues on local governance and development issues
- To support the establishment and institutional development of LGAs in Southern Africa
- To facilitate a platform for corporate learning, knowledge sharing and peer review among LGAs in Southern Africa

- To ensure that member LGAs are adequately profiled regionally and internationally

The Strategic Plan is the product of an extensive interactive process including a consultative workshop with member LGAs in South Africa in May 2012.

It is one of UCLGA-SARO's key deliverables under the ARIAL Programme. The Plan strengthens UCLGA-SARO's capacity to mobilise resources for its institutional development and the implementation of regional programmes.

Regional Workshop on Developing Lobbying, Advocacy and Communication Strategies for LGAs

From 26 – 27 June 2012, a Regional Training Workshop on Developing Local Government Association Lobbying, Advocacy and Communication Strategies was held at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The workshop brought together political leaders, secretary generals and technical staff of local governments associations from Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Angola was represented by an official of the Ministry of Territorial Administration.

Organised by the Municipal Development Partnership – East and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA) in close collaboration with UCLGA-SARO, this training workshop is the second of the two regional training programmes of the ARIAL Programme. The first one on the identification of development opportunities was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2011.

The Official Opening of the Regional Workshop was attended by guests such as His Worship, the Mayor of Harare – the host city, Muchadeyi Masunda and the Head of the EU Delegation to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Aldo Dell Ariccia.



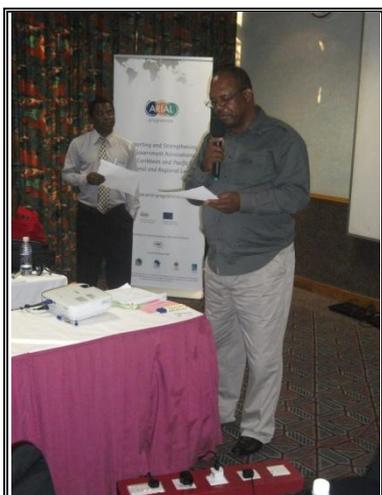
Ambassador Dell Ariccia during the official opening ceremony

The following topics were covered during the two-day workshop: (1) policy development and priority-setting and (2) communication/ lobby strategy. This interactive workshop included both plenary and breakaway group sessions where participants were given practical tasks. The workshop also allowed LGAs to share practical experiences and learn from one another.



Workshop participants

As a follow-up to the workshop, the ARIAL Programme will assist UCLGA-SARO and LGAs in developing and implementing action plans for active involvement in regional and national political dialogues, respectively.



UCLGA-SARO President, Cllr Charles Mumena, during official closing of the training workshop.

Training on Knowledge Management

The UCLGA-SARO Technical Team attended a training session on Knowledge Management organized by MDP-ESA from 9 – 11 May 2012. The training session took place at the MDP-ESA offices which also houses the UCLGA-SARO Secretariat. The purpose of the training, which forms part of the ARIAL Programme, was to make the UCLGA-SARO Technical Team aware of information and communications tools available for Regional and National Local Government Associations and how to access these. Topics covered under the training include:

- The ACP-EU Development Cooperation Information Pack
- The African Caribbean and Pacific Local Government Platform (ACPLGP) website
- The ARIAL Web-based Information Toolkit



From left to right: Samuel Kaninda (STO, UCLGA-SARO), the trainer, Philip Kundishora (MDP-ESA) and Estery Madavo (TO, UCLGA-SARO)

Following the Harare training session, a joint MDP-ESA/UCLGA-SARO team proceeded to roll out the same training programme to local

government associations in Malawi (MALGA), 15 – 17 May 2012 and Mauritius (ADCM and AUAM), 28 – 30 May 2012. UCLGA-SARO will be training more LGAs in due course.

ELGAF - Call for Expression of Interest

Emerging local government associations are invited to express their interest in receiving support for their establishment and institutional development within the framework of the Emerging Local Government Associations Facility (eLGAF), which is a key component of the ARIAL Programme.

The first Call for Expression of Interest was published in 2011. Five applications were successful out of the nine received. One of the successful applications was that of a UCLGA-SARO member, namely the Swaziland Local Government Association (SWALGA). The support provided to SWALGA under eLGAF consists of the recruitment of two staff members – a Director and a Project Assistant, the supply of office equipment, technical assistance for the formulation of key strategic documents and participation in ARIAL regional training workshops, among other things.

For more information, please visit www.arial-programme.eu

Upcoming ARIAL Activities

Following the successful Regional Training on Developing Advocacy, Lobbying and Communication Strategies, from July 2012 UCLGA-SARO and its members will receive support from the ARIAL Programme to develop or enhance their lobbying and advocacy strategies as well as to develop and implement action programmes on political dialogue at regional and national level, respectively. LGAs will be contacted individually for this purpose.

For comments, questions or suggestions,
Please contact the UCLGA-SARO Secretariat:
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