



PRESS RELEASE

5th Gender and Media Summit hailed a resounding success

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The 5th Gender and Media Summit hosted by the Southern Africa Broadcasting Association-SABA, Genderlinks and Gender and Media Diversity Centre has been hailed as a resounding success.

The Summit held under the theme: "Empowering women in and through the media-Providing a voice for gender equality Post-2015" was aimed at highlighting the importance of empowering women in the light of sustainable development starting with the media.

SABA Secretary-General, Ellen !Nanuses said the media holds the power to address the skewed perceptions, stereotypes and discrimination which hold women back and their ability to contribute effectively to nation building.

!Nanuses said thus the current theme as SABA exists to provide leadership to the industry on key developmental themes and we believe sustainable development of women is equal to sustainable development of a nation.

Speaking on the developmental theme Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Gender Development, Social and Family Welfare Ida Hoffman reiterated the importance of providing women equal access to land and productive resources as men.

Quoting the Vice-Chairperson of the Africa Division of the World Bank Makhtar Diop, Ida Hoffman said if women had equal access to land, seed and agricultural inputs, a 100-150-million people would be hungry today on the African continent.

She emphasised that laws surrounding access to loans for women, and property ownership needs to be more in favour of women in Africa, as only 1-percent of women in Africa own land.

Margret Mensah-Williams the Chairperson of the National Council said the Government is hard at work to streamline local laws with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women-CEDAW.

The International Parliamentary Union held a joint session with Namibian Lawmakers on the matter in the land of the brave and are scheduled to hold another session later this year as it is an important piece of legislation to deter discrimination against women.

On a SADC Level the Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare informed the house on the SADC Gender Development Protocol which aims to provide for the empowerment of women through the implementation of gender responsive legislation, policies, programs and projects while deepening regional integration, attain sustainable development and strengthen community building.

The Deputy Minister said the protocol was aligned to the Post-2015 Sustainable development goals, the African Union Agenda 2063 and Beijing declaration and platform for action.

Witbooi said the review also noted the importance of addressing gender in issues such as Climate change and Child marriages which should be included in the protocol.

Speaking at the opening ceremony the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, speaking at the opening ceremony emphasised the need to educate the girl child and women if any country wants to see sustainable growth of their economies and eradication of household poverty.

Hanse-Himarwa said Vision 2030 and now the fast-tracked version the Harambe Prosperity Plan needs gender equality for it will take all the available human resource capacity to provide the best ideas to take the country forward.

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Pictures:



Caption: Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa Officiating, Katrina Hanse-Himarwa Minister of Education Arts and Culture, Stanley SImilo-SABA President, Anitha Gbeho UN Resident Coordinator, Colleen Low Morna CEO Genderlinks and Ellen Nanuses-Secretary General-SABA.