

KS 2013/118



Vänersborgs kommun



Letter of intent

The historical bonds, from the mid 19th century, between the municipalities of Vänersborg in Sweden and Omaruru in Namibia give impetus to the current prosperous and mutual partnership renewed in 2001. The renewed collaboration or partnership agreement between the two sister municipalities have been successful in a large number of projects, such as town planning, environmental care, local democracy and social issues. Not only officials and staff members have been participating, but also NGO's, schools and other public sector organizations.

The beneficiaries of the partnership are our elected representatives, staff members and inhabitants.

This partnership has been viewed and accepted as very good initiative for networking and knowledge sharing by both the Swedish and Namibian governments and hence used as a model for facilitating more partnership agreements for other Swedish and Namibian municipalities. This resulted in six new partnership agreements between Swedish and Namibian towns/municipalities.

For the future partnership, 2013 – 2015 the municipalities give priority and want to cooperate in the following fields:

- Local democracy, management and administration
- Social issues
- Culture and recreation
- Sustainable town development
- Local economical development(trade, tourism and rural development)
- Life Long Learning

The municipality of Vänersborg undertakes the responsibility to find ways for raising funds in order to develop the partnership.

Vänersborg the 3rd of April 2013

Mr Gunnar Lidell
Chairman of the executive board

Mr Ove Thörnkvist
Chief executive officer

Mr Vincent Kauha
Mayor

Mr Edvard Ganaseb
Chief executive officer