



Representativeness:

When young people see themselves in elected representatives.

Young people between the ages of 18 to 34 constitute almost a third of South Africa's population. Young people, a source of innovation and productivity, are the human capital government, especially the local level of government, needs to shape the future of society and its economy.

Following the 2021 local government elections, women, and men between the ages of 20-39 (2968 of 9473 councillors) now make up 31% of all councillors in South Africa- an indication that efforts to ensure that the sector reflects the communities they represent by bridging the age gap, are still on the agenda.

Representativeness- when young people see themselves in elected representatives- is key to keeping them engaged in formal local decision-making processes that shape their lives and communities.

Local governments also have opportunities to contribute to the promotion of youth voices in local decision-making. One the one hand, they can influence youth participation in strategic municipal planning meetings such as ward, Imbizo and Integrated Development Planning (IDP) meetings.

On the other hand, as an employer, municipalities can adopt more equitable selection criteria in their employment policies. Political parties also have a crucial role to play in igniting youth engagement

in local government. They can increase the representation of young people as candidates for municipal elections so that councils are more diverse.

Young people must be at the forefront of local programs and policies that affect their lives and communities. This is essential for the strengthening of local democracy.

It is against this background that SALGA joins hands with all three spheres of government and all stakeholders- including the private sector and civil society in commemorating the 46th anniversary of the 16 June Soweto uprising.

Local government commits to strengthening and deepening the engagement and participation of young people in local decision-making.

SALGA National Working Groups inductions.

From 6-10 June, SALGA will be inducting its National Working Groups. The working groups act as the policy and strategic engine of the organisation and serve as

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an important platform for the communication and coordination between SALGA national, provinces and municipalities.

The main purpose of SALGA working groups is to promote local government matters which include: Cooperative governance; Consultation and coordination; and Participative decision-making.

The functions of SALGA's working groups are as follows:

- Welfare and Empowerment
- Water and Sanitation Electricity and Energy Provision,
- Community Development and Social Cohesion,
- Municipal Finance and Fiscal Policy,
- Municipal Innovations and Information Technology,
- Public Safety and Security,
- Human Settlements and Municipal Planning,
- Trade and Investment,
- Health and Emergency Services,
- Rural Development and Public Works Working Group.

National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting

From June 22-23, SALGA's highest decision-making body will be meeting to discuss key municipal issues, policy priorities and program matters.

Commemorative events

- National Environment Month is celebrated in June, with the South African government and captains of industry leading the way by stimulating awareness on environmental issues and challenging all to become agents for change.
- World Oceans Day on the 8th of June aims to raise awareness of the role of the oceans and the importance of conserving and protecting our marine environment.
- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought takes place on 17 June every year. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.
- World Refugee Day is held every year on 20 June. It is a special day when the world takes time to recognise the resilience of forcibly displaced people throughout the world. It is celebrated annually to honour the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homes under threats of persecution, conflict, and violence.
- Africa Public Service Day on 23 June is an important date in the calendar of African public servants, public service employees and public administration throughout the continent. The day recognises the value and virtue of service to the community. It is also a platform to reflect and share practical recommendations on women empowerment in public service nationally and across the continent.

Follow hashtag:

#25YearsofSalga, #InspiringServiceDelivery and look out for more activities planned for the 20 Years of Democratic Local Government on the SALGA website: www.salga.org.za and all our social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

