

ACTION MINUTES/OUTCOMES OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGERS' FORUM HELD ON 08 JUNE 2012

ITEM	ACTION TO BE TAKEN/RESOLUTION	STATUS
<p>SALGA Strategic Agenda (2012 – 2017) and Emerging Policy Issues for the Sector.</p> <p>The Forum noted the presentation and acknowledged the emerging policy issues for the Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALGA to put more effort and focus on the up-lifting of rural and poor communities. • SALGA to explore the possibility of arranging pre-conferences for the administration to deliberate and make inputs into the discussion documents. • SALGA to assess the impact and the causes of continuous restructuring of municipal senior leadership on Local Government in terms of stability and continuity in municipalities. • The process of repealing old ordinances that causes hindrances to be resuscitated and speeded up. • The MMs to consider using the FET Colleges and other learning institutions in dealing with capacity gaps and other challenges in the Municipalities. 	
<p>Keynote Address by Hon. L Tsenoli – Deputy Minister for CoGTA</p> <p>The key note address focussed on three key issues/challenges facing the local government sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGR System of Local Government • New Growth Path • Rural Development/Uplifting of Rural Communities <p>MMs welcomed the address but raised concerns that it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMs to respond and make inputs on the strategies in Local Government. • MMs to strive to always give factual and well researched advise to Councils and to base their inputs/advise on evidence in order for Councils to make informed decisions. • MMs to factor Monitoring and Evaluation into the systems of their municipalities. • MMs to present quarterly reports to their Councils on how the municipality is doing regarding its manifesto to the communities. • MMs to make inputs and proposals on changes in the organised local government to the ruling party policy conference. SALGA to facilitate the process of getting the inputs and consolidation. 	

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<p>took too long and thus limiting time to deal with other issues on the agenda.</p>		
<p>Municipal Audit Outcomes – Mr K Makwentu – Deputy Auditor General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presentation was made to inform the Forum on the progress made towards the goal of operation clean audits; AGSA initiatives to encourage clean audits and the way forward. <p>The MMs welcomed the presentation but raised concerns over the use of poorly trained junior auditors to audit municipalities. They also raised concern that Local Government seems to be used as a training ground for auditors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALGA to facilitate a process where municipalities who are doing well in terms of audit outcomes would assist those that are having challenges. The matter to be done on an ongoing basis to ensure consistency and to maintain an increasing number of unqualified opinions. • MMs requested the AG to revise the formula/criteria used to describe wasteful and irregular expenditure. SALGA to assist with follow-ups on the matter. • MMs to explore the possibility of Districts and member municipalities using the same financial systems and the same pool of accountants in order to maximise capacity across the municipalities. 	
<p>Municipal Budgets Benchmarking - Chief Directorate: National Treasury</p> <p>The presentation was based on the outcomes of the benchmarking process undertaken by the National Treasury with the aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve budgeting in LG by measuring performance among municipalities; identifying common trends and areas of risk; • Increase the ability of PT's to support delegated municipalities aligned to the initiative's of NT; and • Systematically improve the budget information of all local authorities thereby ensuring sustainability within the municipal environment over the medium to long-term. 	<p>Municipal Managers to and Chief Financial Officers to look thoroughly into their budgeting and financial planning with the aim to improve the situation. SALGA to assist municipalities by developing necessary programmes to realise the envisaged goal.</p>	
<p>Review of Equitable Share Formula – Mr Mayur Maganlal: SALGA ED: Economic Development and Planning.</p> <p>The presentation was made for the MMs to note progress</p>	<p>Continuous updates on developments to be communicated with the municipal managers.</p>	

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<p>made with regard to the review of equitable share formula.</p> <p>The Forum noted the presentation.</p>		
<p>Review of Policy Legislative Environment – Ms Lorette Tredoux: SALGA Acting ED: Governance, IGR and International Relations</p> <p>The presentation was made to inform the MMs on the progress made with regard to the Review of Policy Legislative Environment, with focus on key developments regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Competency Regulations • Municipal Systems Amendment Act (Contracts of Municipal Managers and Senior Managers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALGA to seek a legal opinion on the circulars from the National Treasury and CoGTA and also to determine the validity of the circulars and the correct interpretation of the Act. 	
<p>Collective Bargaining and Labour Relations Updates – Mr Rio Nolutshungu: SALGA ED: Municipal Institutional Development</p> <p>The presentation was done to update the MMs on the process and developments regarding the salary and wage negotiations and related matters.</p> <p>The Forum noted the presentation and indicated that they were confident that SALGA was on the right track with its approach to the negotiations. It was also noted that SALGA was also undertaking engagements with COGTA on the issue of the interpretation of the Gazette on Upper Limits for Councillors.</p>	<p><u>On the issue of wage curve implementation</u> and the incorrect grading of certain municipalities, the affected MMs to raise the matter formally with SALGA (MID Directorate) in order for SALGA to refer the matter formally to the Bargaining Council.</p> <p><u>On the questionnaires</u> that SALGA had sent to municipalities, all MMs who had not completed the questionnaires to do so as a matter of extreme urgency and forward to SALGA (MID Directorate)</p>	
<p>Terms of Reference of the Municipal Managers’ Forum</p> <p>The revised terms of reference for the MMs Forum were presented for consideration by the Forum.</p> <p>The Forum requested that the Terms of Reference be re-circulated for further inputs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALGA to develop a concept document to be circulated to all MMs for inputs. Once finalised, all modalities and agenda formulation/issues for discussion in the Forums also to be formalised in the national municipal managers’ Forum. • All future meetings of the National MMs Forum be scheduled for two (2) days to allow for ample time to deal with matters adequately. • The MMs to organise themselves in the Provinces/formulate Provincial Municipal Managers Forums. • In the future, inputs by politicians to be limited in order to allow ample time to 	

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	<p>deal with items set out for the Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALGA to assist in clarifying the relationship and the distinction between the ILGM and the Municipal Managers' Forum. • The agenda of the MMs Forum to also allow a platform for MMs to share good practices and innovations. • MMs to factor SALGA matters into the agendas of Council and take a lead in ensuring that matters are discussed and well interpreted. 	