

SALGA rolls up sleeves to deal with challenges facing local government

The South African Local Government Association National Executive Meeting began in earnest this morning in Bloemfontein. Over the two-days, SALGA intends to interact with a select few member municipalities in the Free State Province and attend to urgent and pressing matters confronting municipalities. The planned engagements are as a result of a National Executive Committee (NEC) decision which directed that the entire leadership must intensify regular interaction between SALGA and its member municipalities.

As a result, SALGA has introduced a rotating system of NEC meetings throughout the provinces, Bloemfontein being the first meeting place. The NEC has called for Provincial Executive Committees to also rotate their meetings to include engagements with Districts in their respective provinces in order to maximise the interface of SALGA with its members.

As SALGA NEC meets over the two days, the leadership is fully aware that local government faces a number of problems, and Free State is no exception. This includes issues ranging from ongoing urbanisation and migration, the impasse between municipalities and ESKOM, drought, the need to grow our economy and create jobs, extensive service delivery needs and high expectations amongst residents.

During this week's rotational meetings, SALGA will meet with Mangaung Metro, Xhariep District Municipalities, together with its local municipalities as well as Maluti-a-Phofung municipality. During the engagements, SALGA will listen to the municipal leadership, their challenges, with the hope of assisting and advising the municipalities. The presentations from the respective municipalities will focus on the enhancement of service delivery and development.

Further to this, on Thursday 23 August SALGA along with SAMWU and IMATU, will host a joint media briefing on the signing of the multi-year Salary and Wage Agreement. This agreement will create the foundation of labour peace and stability for the next three years and aid municipalities to achieve their medium-term budgeting objectives.