

Media Statement

For immediate release

18 May 2018

SALGA shocked as SAMWU makes U-turn at wage negotiations

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) is gravely disappointed with the reasons provided by the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) in rejecting the facilitator's offer during the last round of negotiations which took place on 17 – 18 May 2018 in Boksburg. This move comes against SALGA and Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (IMATU) both accepting the wage deal as proposed by the facilitator.

The facilitator's proposal was a product of all role players in the negotiation process including SAMWU who have since made a U-turn by reverting to its original demand of a 10% increase.

SALGA believes that SAMWU has not provided tangible reasons for its rejection of the proposed wage deal. On 18 April, the facilitator presented a 7% salary & wage increase across the board with effect from 1 July 2018.

In the intervening period, SALGA consulted municipalities to seek a mandate on the proposed wage deal and got the nod from a majority of municipalities. When granting the mandate to SALGA, municipalities reiterated their concern with the proposed wage deal in the face of a severely constrained financial environment, but in the interest of sustained labour peace and stability, accepted the proposal as being in the best interest of the sector.

At the conclusion of the latest round, the negotiation role players have agreed to convene again

on 07 June 2018 in order to allow SAMWU sufficient time and space to properly canvass their members to accept the proposal on the table.

This means that for as long as SAMWU retains its current position of rejecting the facilitator's proposal, SALGA's offer of a 6.6% stands. Notwithstanding, the current state of negotiations, we are fairly optimistic that all the negotiating parties have the will and desire to find one another and thus emerge with a wage deal for municipal employees.

On the other issues at the negotiation table such as uniform salary scales and retirement fund restructuring, good progress has been made.

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