

Media Release
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City-to-City Cooperation partnerships with Flemish municipalities

SALGA is hosting the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) from the 23 to 28 July 2018, whereby the association will spend three days at SALGA National Office with directorates and have a workshop with municipalities and stakeholders in Bergrivier Municipality for two days.

The Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) and South African Local Governments Association (SALGA), are local authorities' associations that are working together within the framework of Municipal International Cooperation, as determined by the memorandum of cooperation between the two associations. Three South African municipalities are involved in City-to-City Cooperation partnerships with Flemish municipalities, **Witzenberg with Essen, Nquthu with Bornem and Bergrivier with Heist-op-den-Berg**.

The first component is the development of the integrated waste management policies by three municipalities with their partners in order to contribute to good local governance. The second component consists of strengthening the national association of local governments (SALGA) in its digital capacities and competencies. Using a pilot group of municipalities including the three participating municipalities to experiment with digital tools, applications and platforms will contribute equally to good and smart governance. The waste management project in the three and other municipalities will provide for an excellent opportunity to experiment with. In order to be able to do so, SALGA's internal capacities for digitalization and digital service delivery towards its members need to be strengthened. Finally, SALGA will distribute and scale up the good practices and lessons learned from this process in the three municipalities.

The inhabitants of three different municipalities, in South-Africa involved in city-to-city cooperation are aware of the advantages of a cleaner and greener environment and take up the responsibility for the situation in their own ward. Both men and women actively participate in meetings and activities of e.g. waste ambassadors (Bergrivier and Witzenberg), waste forum (Nquthu) and ward committees (Witzenberg) regarding awareness raising about waste management and other environmental issues.

Enquiries please contact:

Mr Tebogo Matlou, Project Manager

Cell: 0832524461

Tel: 021-446-9800

OR

Luvuyo Jongile:

Cell: 0744051025 - Email: ljongile@salga.org.za

Issued on behalf of Marketing & Communication