



SALGA
South African Local Government Association

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SALGA marks progress made to transform Local Government and improve quality of life as South Africa celebrates Human Rights Day – 21 March 2016

South Africa will on Monday, 21 March 2016, mark Human Rights Day. The President of the Republic of South Africa Honourable Jacob Zuma has already declared that Human Rights Day 2016 be commemorated as the national day against racism and as a foundation to lay a long-term programme on building a non-racial society.

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA), representing the voice of South Africa's municipalities supports the theme: "South Africa United Against Racism" and calls for all loving South Africans to reflect as they celebrate the significant achievements of freedom and democracy since 1994.

Developmental Local Government centers on working with local communities to find sustainable ways to meet their needs and improve the quality of their lives. Therefore SALGA is obliged to transform the local government sector to one that has the required capacity to make a meaningful contribution to poverty alleviation and economic development.

Under the Local Government Transformation theme, Government has, through its process known as Creating a Wall-to-Wall Municipalities, determined and established

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local, districts and metropolitan municipalities in the 1999-2000 period in order to deracialise and rationalise the local government environment and build a united and non-racial South Africa. It has also determined and established traditional boundaries in the 1995-2000 period. The determination and establishment of these boundaries contributed immeasurably to successes of Local Government Elections of 2000, 2006 and 2011.

Furthermore, Government registered another dimension of Local Government Transformation i.e. the Constitutional and Legal Transformation. Indicators of milestones in this process were the development of the Constitution (1996), Local Government Act (1997), Demarcation and Structures Act (1998), Municipal Systems Act (2000), MFMA (2003), Municipal Property Rates Act (2004), Fiscal Power and Functions Act (2008), and SPLUMA (2014).

With regard to Service Provision to Communities, the following were general improvements done by Government:

Households' access to electricity for lighting increased in Eastern Cape from 32% access in 1996 to 50% in 2001 and now stands at 83% access, in Limpopo from 38% access in 1996 to 63% in 2001 and now stands at 92%, and in KZN by 20% since the dawn of democratic Local Government.

Households' access to sanitation increased in Eastern Cape from 34% access in 2002 and now stands at 78% access, and in Limpopo from 27% access in 2002 and now stands at 54%.

Households' access to piped water increased in Eastern Cape from 54% access in 1996 to 56% in 2002 and now stands at 79% access, and in KZN from 66% access in 1996 to 73% in 2001 and now stands at 87% access.

Households' access to refuse removal per week has increased from 57% in 2002 to 64% in 2014 and the own refuse dump has decreased from 32% to 28% in the same period nationally.

Local Government has contributed to expanding social infrastructure and services to poor households. Increases in access to services increased against declining revenue. From 2005 to 2014, people paying for water declined from 61.9% to 43.7%.

Through good public transport for living and working spaces, the BRT transport systems have been introduced in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Tshwane and eThekweni.

Other transformations have been through parks, libraries and primary health care.

Over the last fifteen years of existence Local Government has made a huge contribution to ensuring delivery of basic services to the poorest of the poor and to improved dignity and quality of life. This is part of the journey to transform local government towards creation of a developed and prosperous South Africa.

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