

**SALGA PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON OFFICE
PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING UPDATE 32/ 2011 (1 NOVEMBER 2011)**

REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES / COMMITTEE MEETINGS:			
DATE	NAME OF COMMITTEE & RELEVANT AGENDA ITEMS	SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS	PROPOSED ACTION FOR SALGA
25 OCT	<p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COGTA (Briefing by SALGA on Local Govt Budgets and Expenditure Review; Briefing by SALGA on Challenges relating to Payment of Government Property Rates)</p> <p>SALGA was represented by Cllr Willie Johnson; ED: Economic Development and Planning, Mayur Maganlal; ED: Gov, IGR & IR, Johann Mettler</p>	<p>SALGA briefed the Committee on the payment of property rates by government and on its engagements with the Department of Public Works (DPW) in this regard. SALGA highlighted the government policy changes introduced in 2008 which resulted in property rates being the responsibility of National and Provincial DPW, while the service charges were the responsibility of the national or provincial line departments. Implications of this policy change were cited, including operational challenges identified among different cities, which included devolution, invoicing and payment schedules, land audits and issues of high interests.</p> <p>DPW, which was present at the meeting highlighted the challenges relating to municipalities' inefficient billing system, lack of valuation rolls, and delays in issuing invoices on properties affected by demarcations of municipal boundaries. DPW reported that a pilot project was being run at eThekweni and Port St Johns municipalities, to try to reduce the debt owed to municipalities, where the DPW would reconcile its payments against the claims of the municipalities. Members called for a report on the process of Ethekwini. Some Members believe that it is the responsibility of the DPW to provide correct addresses for billing</p> <p>At this meeting, SALGA also presented its comments and observations on the Local Government Budgets and Expenditure Review. SALGA considered the Review to be timely and relevant for the local government political leadership and appreciated that it did not attempt to adopt a "one size fits all" approach. However, the point was made that all policies</p>	

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		<p>had to be supported by the restoration of the credibility of local government through relentless promotion of ethical behaviour and service delivery. Municipalities needed assistance and support for budgeting, supply-chain management and planning capacity in order to improve on infrastructure. SALGA welcomed the additional functions of public transport and housing, but pointed out that unfunded mandates must be addressed. It was pointed out that the implementation of the Municipal Property Rates Act in rural areas had little benefit, and alternatives to taxes or revenue needed to be created for rural areas.</p> <p>Members noted that the process for rates in the rural areas was sensitive, and said that the lack of communication had probably been the result of the entities' failure to deal with matters appropriately under the Inter Governmental Relations Framework Act. SALGA claimed that it was not being kept abreast of matters, and the DPW claimed that SALGA had failed to respond to invitations to attend forums. It was suggested that SALGA should draw a report highlighting instances where gazetted funds had not been allocated.</p>	
25 OCT	<p>SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Briefing by SALGA on the role of the 3 spheres of government in local economic development (LED) and the role of SALGA)</p> <p>SALGA represented by Cllr Chris Neethling; Specialist: Economic Development,</p>	<p>The engagement with the committee was part of SALGA Advocacy and Lobbying Parliamentary Programme which is aimed at taking up issues of concern with relevant parliamentary committees.</p> <p>In its presentation, SALGA started by addressing the question of what LED is. The role of the three spheres in LED was outlined including reasons for the slow success rate of LED. It was pointed out that LED is still project driven, unrealistic targets were being set, and there was very little monitoring and evaluating. Integration to district, provincial and national planning strategies was very limited. There is poor integration with EPWP as well. A "one size fits all" solution was being adopted, which is challenge.</p> <p>Some of the issues raised by Members during discussion include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to focus spatially on LED and move away from Joburg, Cape town and Durban, and focus where development is most needed • LED is being used as a political tool, where municipal LED projects favour political 	SALGA should follow-up on the suggestion of a Summit and ensure that it happens.

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	Douglas Cohen	<p>members or spatial areas and this gives a wrong perception of LED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity is an issue – LED officials do not have the right skills • Local authorities need to focus on incentives and work with potential investors • Engaging with the green economy is crucial and a good opportunity for LED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural areas must investigate wind and biomass • Impact of Procurements Regulations to be implemented in December • Concern about the lack of participation of SALGA in the NCOP • Role of LED, municipalities and rural development • Role of municipalities and planning, land for development, land reform, control of commonages. • Informal economy is key and SALGA should advise municipalities to relax by-laws instead of closing down people who are creating jobs for themselves (e.g car wash) <p>It was agreed that the Committee will organise a Summit on LED and all stakeholders will be invited. The Chairperson commented that SALGA should view NCOP as a partner and should use the Committee as a platform for LED.</p>	
26 OCT	SELECT COMMITTEE ON LABOUR & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (Briefing by the Department of Labour on its Annual Report; Briefing by SALGA on the proposal to	<p>SALGA engagement with this committee was also part of its Advocacy and Lobbying Parliamentary Programme. SALGA used this platform to lobby for amendment of the Labour Relations Act to include a provision for compensation in the event of damages during a lawful industrial action.</p> <p>The Department of Labour, which was present at the meeting indicated that LRA is part of legislations that are still within the NEDLAC process, but could not give a definite finishing</p>	SALGA should urgently engage with the Department of Labour on its proposal, and see if the proposal cannot be included in the current NEDLAC process.

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	<p>amend Labour Relations Act to provide for compensation for damages during a lawful strike)</p> <p>SALGA represented by Cllr Mashilo; Cllr Rathaga; CEO; ED: MID, M Yawa; Rio Nolutshungu, NMBM; Slade Pillay, Ethekewini Municipality</p>	<p>time for the process. The Committee then indicated that they can only engage on the issue once the NEDLAC process is finished. SALGA in the meantime to engage the Department on its position relating to the conduct of municipal workers during strikes.</p>	
27 OCT	<p>NCOP SITTING (Debate on Child Protection; Debate on Transport: Moving South Africa Safely on Time)</p> <p>SALGA was represented by Cllr Pinkie Moloji</p>	<p>SALGA participated in the NCOP debate on Transport: Moving South Africa Safely on Time, and was represented by the Chairperson of the National Working Group, Cllr Pinkie Moloji. She argued that in order to move South Africa safely on time, four important issues should be considered, namely: Promotion of use of safe, efficient and affordable public transport ; Getting freight off the roads; Funding of roads infrastructure maintenance; and Traffic management.</p>	
28-29 OCT	<p>NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE: "Building tomorrow today; working towards a national</p>	<p>This seminar was organised by Parliament as part of seeking a national consensus on climate change in preparation for COP 17. Various stakeholders participated, including civil society, academia, UN agencies, and organised local government. Deliberations focused on the outcomes of previous COPs and MOPs; update on climate change negotiations and the work of subsidiary bodies; as well as the role of different stakeholders (parliament, civil society, business, government, religious groups) towards building national consensus on</p>	

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	<p>consensus on climate change in the African COP 17”</p> <p>SALGA NATIONAL was represented by Chairperson, Cllr T Manyoni; 2 Deputy Chairpersons: Cllr M Nawa & Cllr N Sihlwayi; Cllr P Moloj; CEO; ED: MIS, M Kolisa. SALGA PEC members from various provinces also attended</p>	<p>COP 17.</p> <p>SALGA was not in the programme, but after negotiations, the association was granted platform to address the gathering. In his remarks the National Chairperson of SALGA pointed out that it is common knowledge that the space occupied for agriculture and economic activities is at the local level, and this implies that local government has an important role to play in climate change debate. He argued that since Rio Summit of 1992, the focus has predominantly been on mitigation of the causes of climate change. He pointed out that science indicates that it is no longer possible to mitigate our way out of the climate change problem, and called for a balanced approach between mitigation and adaptation. The Chairperson of SALGA argued that local government, because of its proximity to the citizens, is strategically positioned to be in the frontline in tackling climate change.</p> <p>There were 5 commissions which looked at the expectations of the different stakeholders at COP 17 in relation to 5 focal areas, namely: Character of the outcome of COP 17 including scenario building; Adaptation & Mitigation; Transfer of Technology; Climate Change & Finances; and Gender Mainstreaming & Climate Change. SALGA facilitated the Commission on adaptation and litigation.</p> <p>The report of the seminar will be circulated to participants once finalised and will be debated by parliament on 15 Nov. Parliament will use this report for the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting on COP 17 to be held on 5 December, which will run parallel to COP 17. The Parliamentary Political Steering Committee will come up with a plan of action post COP 17.</p>	

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) RELEVANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS (NOVEMBER 2011)

FOURTH TERM 2011

TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2011	WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2011	THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2011	FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2011
<p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, (National Assembly), [Public Hearings on National Climate Change White Paper 2011], Good Hope Chamber, Good Hope Building, 09:00</p> <p>JOINT MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, (National Assembly & National Council of Provinces), [Public Hearing on the 2011 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS)], Committee Room V454, Fourth Floor, Old Assembly Building, 09:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, (National Assembly), [Public Hearings on National Climate Change White Paper 2011], Venue to be confirmed, 09:00</p> <p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION, (National Assembly), [Briefing by the Community Law Centre on the African Review Mechanism Monitoring Project's (AMP) independent assessment of governance in South Africa report entitled: "Implementing the APRM: Views from Civil Society"], Committee Room S26, First Floor, NCOP Building, 09:30</p> <p>MULTI-PARTY WOMEN'S CAUCUS, (National Assembly & National Council of Provinces) [Briefing and Discussions on Gendered Climate Change Workshop], Committee Room E249, Second Floor, New Wing Building, 13:00 – 14:30</p>		

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES (NCOP) RELEVANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS (NOVEMBER 2011)

FOURTH TERM 2011

TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2011	WEDNESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2011	THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2011	FRIDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2011
<p>JOINT MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, (National Assembly & National Council of Provinces), [Public Hearing on the 2011 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS)], Committee Room V454, Fourth Floor, Old Assembly Building, 09:30 – 13:00</p> <p>SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, (National Council of Provinces), [Termination of Section 139 Intervention in Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality and allegation of corruption and maladministration practices with Matjabeng Municipality (Free State Province); Consideration and Adoption of Committee Reports], Committee Room, M201, Second Floor, Marks Building, 10:00 – 13:00</p> <p>SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, (National Council of Provinces), [Presentation by the Department of Public Works, Provincial MECs & HODs on monitoring systems on pothole reparation programmes between National, Provincial and Local Governments],</p>	<p>MULTI-PARTY WOMEN'S CAUCUS, (National Assembly & National Council of Provinces) [Briefing and Discussions on Gendered Climate Change Workshop], Committee Room E249, Second Floor, New Wing Building, 13:00 – 14:30</p>		

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FOURTH TERM 2011

<p>Committee Room 3, Upper Ground Floor, 90 Plein Street Building, 10:00 – 13:00</p> <p>SELECT COMMITTEE ON LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, (National Council of Provinces), [Briefing by the Department of Environmental Affairs on the National Climate Change Policy – White Paper; Consideration and adoption of outstanding Committee minutes], Committee Room</p> <p>E305, Third Floor, New Wing Building, 10:00 – 12:30</p>			
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JOINT SITTINGS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

TYPE	DATE	CONTENT	SUGGESTED SALGA INTERVENTION
<p>PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK FOR 2011</p>	<p>1st term: 18 Jan – 31 Mar 2nd term: 12 April – 1 July 3rd term: 26 July – 23 Sep 4th term: 11 Oct – 9 Dec</p>		
<p>JOINT PLANNING FORUM</p>	<p>2 November (14h00)</p>	<p>Joint Planning Meeting of the NCOP with Provincial Legislatures</p>	<p>SALGA to attend</p>

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TYPE	DATE	CONTENT	SUGGESTED SALGA INTERVENTION
PRE-TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE MEETING, Umzinyathi District Council Chamber	6 November (09h00 - 11h00)	NCOP Leadership meeting with all Councillors of the local municipalities within Umzinyathi district, including Councillors from Umzinyathi district municipality to discuss Taking Parliament to the People event	SALGA KZN should assist in facilitating this meeting as requested by NCOP Chair and should also participate in the meeting
TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE, Nquthu, KZN	07-11 November	Oversight / Public participation	SALGA should participate
NCOP PLENARY, Nquthu, KZN	11 November	Annual Address to the NCOP by President Zuma	SALGA should participate and the National Chairperson should deliver SALGA's speech
NCOP PLENARY	17 November	Debate on Water Management and Resources	SALGA should participate
NCOP PLENARY	18 November	Consideration of Division of Revenue Amendment Bill	SALGA to participate
NCOP PENARY	24 November	Debate on Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Violence	
JOINT SITTING	09 February 2012	President's State of the Nation Address	SALGA should attend
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY	22 February 2012	Budget Speech	SALGA should attend

APPROVED LOCAL TRIPS

COMMITTEE	DATE	DESTINATION	PURPOSE
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COGTA	27 November – 2 December 2011	Eastern Cape	Oversight Visit to Eastern Cape - King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality - Buffalo City and - Mnquma Local Municipality

CONTACT PERSONS	Nomawethu Xali / Janine Van Niekerk
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