

News Release

For immediate release

20 November 2017

SALGA Working Groups to meet in Durban to deal with pertinent local and international issues facing local government

DURBAN – The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Working Groups will in the next week get down to the nitty-gritty of local government affairs. The Working Groups meetings come after SALGA successively convened its nationwide Provincial Members Assemblies (PMA's). The PMA's are the ultimate authority of the provincial members in between Provincial Conferences of SALGA.

The Councillor Welfare and Empowerment, Governance and Intergovernmental Relations Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21 November, while the International Programmes and Partnerships Working Group meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 22 November at SALGA's KwaZulu Natal Provincial Offices.

Key on the agenda of the Councillor Welfare and Empowerment, Governance and Intergovernmental Relations Working Group is reflections on the Study on Killings of Councillors and Municipal Officials, PMA Outcomes on Devolution of Powers & Functions, Update on Upper Limits Notice, SALGA Position on the Funding of Political Parties, and Proposed Local Laws Amendment and all other proposals SALGA submitted to Parliament for review.

SALGA Working Group Chairperson for Councillor Welfare and Empowerment, Governance and Intergovernmental Relations Working Group, Cllr Bheke Stofile says: "Since our engagements with the Justice, Crime Prevention, Safety and Security Cluster (JCPS), we undertook to set up Focus Teams that will deal with these problems, however, political killings continue unabated in KwaZulu-Natal. Safety and Security is a national function delegated to the provincial level. Part of our reflections in the working group will be to assess and reflect on the status quo."

SALGA CEO Xolile George says: "Working Groups are structures of the SALGA National Executive Committee (NEC) that deal with political detail on behalf of the NEC and their main purpose is to encourage, ensure and promote local government matters."

"Among others, they deal with cooperative governance; consultation and coordination; and participative decision-making. The Working Groups, within their derived mandate, must develop policies for the sector, strategies, and programmes to address critical local government issues; and serve as a forum through which organized local government can consult on a political level in order to contribute towards the creation of democratic and economically viable local government," says Xolile George.

The International Programmes and Partnerships Working Group will delve into the "Outcomes of the BRICS Local Government Forum and present an update on Building Inclusive Green Municipalities Programme (BIGM) Project Implementation. Thanks to the Global Affairs Canada generosity, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, together with SALGA received a contribution of \$4,900,000 dollars to implement a 5,8 million dollar project in a period of 52 months (4.3 years), from November 2016 to March 31, 2021. The BIGM initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of the South African municipal sector and specific municipalities in the Eastern Cape Province, to contribute to South Africa's priorities for reducing poverty, supporting economic growth, and responding to climate change by transitioning to a low carbon economy.

"One of SALGA's mission is to solicit funding for small municipalities from European Union (EU) member states, France and Britain in particular. SALGA has developed a database of municipalities twinning partnerships within the municipal international relations, including a report outlining the areas of focus for municipalities twinning partnerships. Now it's about time to determine how these twinning partnerships could be replicated in other municipalities within or outside the province," says Xolile George.

END

Issued By: South African Local Government Association

Tahir Sema | Mobile: 082 940 3403 | Email: tsema@salga.org.za

Sivuyile Mbambato | Mobile: 073 897 8519 | Email: smbambato@salga.org.za

TEL: 012 369 8000 | FAX: 012 369 8001

PHYSICAL: Block B, Menlyn Corporate Park, 175 Corobay Ave, Waterkloof Glen Ext 11, Pretoria 0181