

Western Cape Municipal Brief

29 November 2022



SALGA Western Cape hosts its first Provincial Members Assembly with Energy crisis, Coalition Governments, Disaster Management, Economic Recovery, Rural Development Strategy, Joint District & Metro Approach/District Delivery Model, Waste Management and Professionalization of Local Government on top of the agenda



SALGA Western Cape convened its first Provincial Members Assembly (PMA) in the new term of local government on 17 and 18 November 2022 in Langebaan, Western Cape. The two-day gathering was supported by mayors, councillors and representatives of local, provincial and national government who reflected on what has been happening in councils and their communities, as well as shared experiences, perspectives, and responses

to the challenges faced in local government, at the same time influencing the future direction of local government.

Key on the agenda, among others, was to tackle unique and shared challenges in areas such as Energy Infrastructure, Coalition Governments, Disaster Management, Economic Recovery, and Waste Management.



The PEC Chairperson, Ald. Donovan Joubert, in his welcoming address, said that he holds a strong view that the PMA will afford members an opportunity to change things for the better if they all work towards a common goal, united in improving the lives of those that have put their trust in the elected public representatives and public servants.

“Looking at the list of various invited participants and contributors to this Assembly, I have no doubt the festival of ideas that will ensue here will produce strategies to take our service delivery efforts a notch up”, said Ald. Joubert.

The Acting CEO of SALGA, Mr. Lance Joel, highlighted the 2021/22 Performance and the Annual Performance Plan for 2023/24. He highlighted that SALGA has achieved 13 consecutive clean audit results, which is commendable.



The Western Cape NEC deployed member, Cllr. Thamsanqa Ngubane gave an update on the Key Policy advances. In his update, he took the opportunity to remind the delegates of the role of SALGA and that being in local government is not for



The two-day gathering included panel discussions, and insightful presentations from various speakers working within the local government sphere. To kick off the event, Ald. Aidan Stowman, the Deputy Chairperson of the Western Cape Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) gave a brief background of the PMA and said that the PMA is a constitutional meeting of all municipalities which is convened between Provincial Conferences. In terms of Article 23.1 of the SALGA Constitution, Western Cape as a provincial member shall, at least once a year, hold a meeting of members to be known and described in the notice calling such meeting as the Provincial Members Assembly.

The Executive Mayor of Saldanha Bay Municipality Cllr. André Truter officially welcomed delegates to his town and expressed gratitude to SALGA that they chose Saldanha Bay Municipality to host the PMA, as that will not only put their municipality on the map but will also boost the local economy. He encouraged the visitor to do a bit of sightseeing while they were still in town.

self-enrichment but to serve the people who elected them to serve. He further quoted from the bible, the book of John 15:16 which said, “you did not choose me, I chose you...”, which echoed his sentiments about local government being a calling to serve people.

He further implored the honourable Councillors in the room to work together, as working together is fundamental to making municipalities better. He said the following are key when one is in public service:

1. Knowledge – do you know what we are doing?
2. Skills – do you know the how part of what you are doing?
3. Motivation – do you want to do it?

“All of us are in public service, and it’s regarded as an area of calling and must be occupied by people who want to serve”, he added.

In reminding the councillors why they were elected by their communities, Cllr. Ngubane gave reference to a quote that says “Rivers don’t drink their water. Trees don’t eat their fruit”, and therefore, we live for others,” Cllr. Ngubane reminded councillors.

He encouraged members to practice integrity in their leadership and said that leading by example is the best leadership style and the impact of this leadership must be felt in the municipalities.



In addressing the PMA, MEC for Local Government,

Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Mr Anton Bredell touched on key challenges faced by the Western Cape government and said that he believed that the intellectuals in the room are capable of finding solutions to those challenges.

“There are many challenges that are faced by the local government, and it can be overwhelming if we do not see them in the right context,” he added.

He explained both the internal and external challenges. According to him, external challenges refer to things that are outside our control, however, those have to be recognized and accepted for what they are, that way and respond to them as best as we can. Internal challenges are of our own making, and we have the power and the ability to do something about them.

He further mentioned that according to the 2022 Global Risk Report, social and environmental risks are top of the list. The environmental health of our planet has been dominating all risk concerns. Environmental Risks are seen as the most critical long-term threats to the world, as well as the most potentially damaging to people and the planet. Our inability to act, extreme weather events and the loss of biodiversity are ranked as the top three risks for the next decade.

“There is not a single municipality in the Western Cape that is not affected by climate change or will be or will have to face climate challenges as we go into the future. Droughts, floods, changing weather patterns influence you directly,” said Mr. Bredell.

In the Western Cape, our second external challenge is population growth, which forms part of the environmental challenges. He said according to Stats SA, it is expected that the population will grow with over 600,000 people in the next five years and over 1.2 to 1.3 million people over a 10-year period.

This will need proper planning from the government’s side. It will require the government to use the available technology in order to understand the impact of population growth. He said that if prepared enough, government could use population growth

for economic growth.

“I do believe that within this room, there are many intellects who are capable of finding solutions to these problems,” he further added.



He mentioned that just as in other provinces, the state of the Economy in WC province is a concern. The global economy in 2022 is weaker than expected in South Africa, for 2022 is a mere 1.9% and the same is predicted for 2023. In the Western Cape economic growth for 2022 is calculated at 2% with only 1.9% expected in 2023.

The national unemployment rate currently stands at 34.9% and in the Western Cape unemployment is at 25.3%.

“These numbers tell us that people are struggling to make ends meet, so as counsellors or any government representative here, we need to be sensitive to these economic realities,” said Minister Bredell.

The 2021 Local Government Elections have been followed by an increase in Coalition Agreements, with the Western Cape leading with 15 Coalition Councils. In a panel discussion led by Cllr. Anthony Moses, Mr. Graham Paulse from the Department of Local Government, Prof. Jaap de Visser from Dullah Omar Institute – UWC and Prof. Mcebisi Ndletyana from the Department of Politics and International Relations outlined the dynamics of coalition in South Africa.



Mr. Graham Paulse said that they have observed that certain instances are associated with unlawful activity, non-compliance and prevalence of corruption. It is usually less about the citizen’s interests, less about the well-being of citizens and more about self-interest and party interest. He further alluded to the challenges of factionalism which results in local government being a battleground for power. Mr. Paulse referred to instances where coalitions are associated with unlawful, non-compliance and prevalent corruption and urged a need for legislation to regulate coalitions.



Prof. Jaap de Visser provided an opinion on coalition government tracing it back to the first Local Government elections held in 2000. According to Prof de Visser, an empirical study conducted in other countries show a positive functioning of coalition government while in South Africa, coalition stands to be opportunistic and largely driven by power and

patronage. He said that South Africa has to accept that coalitions are here to stay.

He implored delegates that they have to find ways of making coalitions work. He called for transparency in coalition agreements to ensure partners are accountable to the public, adding that this approach has worked well for other countries abroad for many years. According to him, coalitions can work if the coalition governments deal only with policies that are relevant to local government.

“The first thing to do in coalition is that we have to acknowledge that it is ok to agree to disagree. We just have to agree on enough to work together for the interests of the citizens. Negotiations have to be based on local interests”, said Prof. de Visser.



Prof. Ndletyana mentioned the following key issues on coalition government:

- Dependence on political office for livelihoods results in instability – most councillors do not have the skills to make it out of politics;
- Proposal by the DA for parties to reach a certain threshold to get a seat in the council should be supported;
- The biggest party or a party that gets the most votes should be given the honor to form a coalition;
- Collective executive system should be considered for coalition council to force parties to work together;
- Some officials / municipal managers are proxies for political parties. There is a need to de-link the process of the appointment of municipal managers from council and councillors;
- Municipal managers should account to an independent body instead of a council to sure stability in the administration of the municipality.



Panel discussion on Energy and electricity led by Deputy Chairperson Ald. Memory Booysen included panellists like Mr. Kgopisho Mahunonyane from ESKOM, Ms Helen Davies from the provincial Department of Economic Development & Tourism, Mr Shane Prins from the City of Cape Town and Adv. Hanlie Linde from Bergrivier Municipality.

Ms. Helen Davies, who joined the discussion virtually, talked about the Western Cape Municipal Energy Resilience (MER) Initiative and said it is aimed at reaching the 2025 target while gearing up for medium to longer-term energy resilience needs and targets. The Premier will work closely with Cabinet to set up a Cabinet-level task team. When she gave feedback from the Cabinet Bosberaad energy session, she mentioned that it was resolved that there is a need to move faster and with clear intent to manage the energy crisis, similar to how they managed the Covid-19 crisis – that is to develop and use optimal delivery approaches.



Adv. Hanlie Linde spoke on the impact of loadshedding on service delivery in municipalities; how it delays service delivery and how it negatively impacts the economy in local municipalities.

“To survive without electricity is a challenge, to survive without water is impossible,” said Adv. Linde. She said in many towns when there is no electricity, there is no water and no sewerage treatment. And when there are no services due loadshedding, communities think it is a problem caused by the municipalities. She said that after the backlash from the residents, they had to reiterate to the communities that they are not responsible for the loadshedding, but ESKOMS is.



Mr. Shane Prins from the City of Cape Town spoke on the loadshedding mitigation fundamentals and said that the declining Energy Availability Factor (EAF) and increasing Energy Utilisation Factor (EUF) of the aging Eskom coal fleet are pointing towards the potential catastrophic collapse of the energy supply/demand balance. However, SA does not have an installed capacity problem (~50GW vs ~34GW winter peak) but an inability to extract needed energy from machines.

“On any given day, Eskom has 15000MW on unplanned outage – this is the crux of the problem”, he said.

He said that to mitigate against loadshedding, the solution must include enough “capacity” to meet

LS magnitude (up to 400MW as experienced in 2019). He further pointed out that battery storage technologies are still severely limited in providing power to the grid over an extended period and are not suitable for extended LS Mitigation.

“Selected solution must thus incorporate both adequate “capacities” and have the capability of producing such power for extended periods to serve the required energy to the system”, added Mr. Prins.



Mr. Mahunonyane provided an overview of the structure and status of the province and its key projects that will assist in adding capacity to the network. He mentioned that they have started a few innovation projects and one of them is the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The BESS project aims to reduce Eskom’s carbon footprint (decarbonize the grid). It supports transformational aspects by demonstrating large-scale deployment in support of the South African renewable energy strategy and addresses local overall system challenges.

He further added that the BESS primary use case would be for national peak shaving purposes for 4 hours a day for at least 250 days of the year. Charging will be conducted during off-peak periods or when the network conditions permit. A decision was taken to implement the project in two phases for the Eskom teams to be able to manage risk better and deliver on phase 1 linked to the World Bank disbursement of funds. Phase 1 of the BESS is to be completed by 30 June 2023, followed by phase 2 completed by 31 December 2024.

Other projects they are busy with include the Community Cooperatives Programme, Illegal Connections Overview, Renewable Energy, Battery Storage and Electric Vehicles.

Ms. Nozuko Zamxaka from the Department of Local Government, Mr. Ashley Losch from CoGTA and Mr Joggie Scholtz from the Swartland Municipality formed part of the panel discussion on the Joint District and Metro Approach / District Delivery Model. This panel discussion was led by the Deputy Chairperson of the PEC Ald. Aidan Stowman.

During his presentation, Mr Ashley Losch said that the District Delivery Model (DDM) implementation approach comes in 4 phases, which are:

1. Establishing
2. Piloting
3. Institutionalisation
4. Sustainability

He said that the role of government departments and state-owned entities is to reflect the DDM in their Strategic Plans and APPs - include comprehensive analysis of the internal and external operating environment, including demographic changes and spatial analysis. The DDM principles of spatialisation and reprioritisation must also be applied.

The role of provinces is to manage the process of the review and updating of One Plans. The provinces are also to provide strategic guidance to districts, local municipalities, sector departments and other stakeholders on the updating of the One Plans. They are to also facilitate the engagements with key stakeholders (including private sector and civil society) on the One Plan.

He further touched on the role and responsibilities of DDM political champions and said they are to:

- Provide political oversight and support to improve cooperation and collaboration across the 3 spheres of governance to implement DDM.
- Provide strategic guidance for the development and implementation of the ONE PLAN.
- Contribute towards institutional stabilisation of the allocated district and the reprioritisation process that seek to respond to urgent institutional and governance gaps, and development priorities outlined in the specific district profile.

- Work with sector Ministries and provincial MECs and provide support to unblock and bring to the surface any issues that may hinder progress in the implementation of the DDM.
- Promote transparency and accountability in the implementation of the DDM.

Ms. Nozuko Zamxaka talked on the linkages between JDMA and DDM and said that the JDMA promotes collaboration through co-planning, co-budgeting and co-implementation, while the DDM builds government capacity to support municipalities, as well as strengthen monitoring and evaluation at district and local levels. There have been a few projects of JDMA which have commenced in the Western Cape.

Mr. Joggie Scholtz from the Swartland Municipality gave an overview of the DDM - JDMA - One Plan from a Swartland Municipality's perspective. He thinks all spheres should just be let to do what they are supposed to do if they have enough knowledge, hard work and attitude to execute and to succeed.



Speaking on the relationship between One Plans and IDPs, he said that it is envisaged that the One Plan will strengthen and enhance the IDPs and other plans of municipalities and provide greater certainty and direction for the IDPs. However, once the One Plans are approved, IDPs will be directed by the strategies and priorities outlined in the One Plans. In this regard, IDPs will be the vehicle through which implementation of the One Plans will happen at a local level.

He added that the One Plan cannot and does not replace the existing prescribed development, departmental strategic and annual performance plans that each government sphere is responsible for.

“The plan is also not a simple summation of entity plans but a strategic plan that articulates development outcomes, targets and commitments,” said Mr. Scholtz

Addressing the PMA virtually, Ms. Patricia de Lille, Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure highlighted the importance of infrastructure maintenance and said “We have to maintain our infrastructure. Because if we don’t, it costs municipalities a lot more on renovations”.



“Infrastructure investment and maintenance will not only improve infrastructure performance and underpin services sustainability but will also contribute significantly towards economic growth and add long term long-term jobs”, she said.

The Deputy Chairperson of the PEC Cllr. Memory Booysen chaired a session that tackled the topics: The Just Transition and Implications for local government, which Mr. Seana Nkhatle touched on extensively.

Mr. Nkhatle explained that the Just Transition is about responding to the socio-economic effects of the response to climate change. Adding that the consequences of the response must be equitable across society.



“Whether we look at mitigation or adaptation, service delivery is core. We need to think of building resilient infrastructure, a future based on different scenarios, have the implications on the environment in mind, as well as bringing the community on board,” he said. He further mentioned that Local government has the responsibility to respond to spatially specific climate change impacts, coordinate the Just Transition measures, ensure universal access to basic services, empower individuals, and engage in public discussions. The Just Transition will affect community behaviour, municipal finance, service delivery, the structure of the local economy, and the use of alternative infrastructure.

Four sectors and value chains forming part of the formal economy have been identified as being the most at-risk in the transition. These are identified as the coal value chain, the auto value chain, agriculture and the tourism sector. While the coal and auto value chain are most at risk when looking on a national scale, agriculture and the tourism sector are the most critical in the Western Cape context.



Ms. Nozibele Makanda presented SALGA’s position paper on local government response to HIV, STI and TB. She mentioned that local government has a duty to promote a safe and healthy environment as well as promote social and economic development as envisaged in section 152 of the Constitution. The Local Government’s response is key, and it is for this reason that a Position Paper was developed. Executive Mayors are in this regard, responsible to lead the HIV Program. SALGA works with the South African AIDS Council to make inroads in particular with regards to funding assistance and sharing of relevant resources. Support is given to local and district municipalities in terms of the establishment of AIDS Councils.

There is a growing concern regarding the state of cleanliness in the country. It is for this reason that DFFE, MINMEC and MINTECH tasked the sector to develop an approach for improving cleanliness in the country and to make recommendations for implementation. Considering this, Mr Balanganani Nengovhela from SALGA shared recommendations for improving waste management and cleanliness within the country and within municipalities.

Several recommendations have been made to the PMA. It is recommended that members should:

- Commit to contributing resources in partnership with other stakeholders towards a waste behavioral change campaign – a campaign against littering and illegal dumping of waste
- Ensure budgets and organizational structures of municipalities provide for substantive improvement in waste management.

- Consider exploring innovative solutions and technologies for improving waste management services

Mr. Zanoxolo Futwa who presented on the topic of Rural Development highlighted that SALGA recognizes the constitutional imperatives of rural development and therefore supports the call to review certain aspects of SPLUMA.

According to the South African Planning Commission, 40% of the South African population will live in Cities by 2030. This means a lot of people will still be living in rural areas, thus rural areas need to be considered for the delivery of infrastructure. It is with this in mind that SALGA affirms the constitutional recognition of institutions of traditional leadership as enshrined in the constitution.

Development planning has been biased towards urban planning for the longest time. It is now an opportune time to have an ecological balance in our planning. As such the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform has identified 2000 rural enterprises that will work in partnership with the BANKSETA.

Rural Development Strategy - The Key Findings of the study are:

- Significant development differentiation between urban planning and rural development planning
- Rural Development requires a holistic approach
- Rural development is multi-faceted



Cllr. Carl Pophaim chaired a panel discussion that engaged on the Economic Recovery in the Western Cape and the Management of Rural Development. The panellists are Mr. Ashley Rasool from the Provincial Treasury, Associate Professor Reza Daniels from the University of Cape Town and Dr. Emmanuel Baidoo from WESGRO.



Mr. Ashley Rasool gave an overview of the Socio-Economic Review and Outlook, which is the Provincial Treasury's annual publication that provides socio-economic intelligence empowering political and administrative leadership in their decision-making processes.

“Local Government is not responsible for jobs, but rather creating an enabling environment for job creation. Local government is primarily responsible for economic infrastructure and service delivery,” Mr. Rasool lamented.

He further added that the Western Cape economy is dominated by the City of Cape Town and that the provincial government needs to work collectively to diversify the economy. Of significance, Mr. Rasool stated that the funding model of local government has to be reconsidered, as the fiscus is under severe strain. There is a great need to seek alternative funding, particularly for infrastructure development.

Dr. Emmanuel Baidoo stated that prior to the Russia-Ukraine war, most economies including South Africa were gradually bouncing back from the negative economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has had an adverse effect on South Africa's commodity prices, inflation, and also global supply chains. Like the rest of the Western Cape economy has been severely hit by the current global economic downturn. For instance, the Western Cape's GDP growth rate during the second quarter of 2022 was 0.66%, compared to the 1.96% recorded in quarter 1 in 2022. The cost of living has increased drastically.



Mr. Unathi Mntonintshi, a specialist at SALGA, in his presentation he proposed the following – in terms of the improvement of rural roads: that there be a conditional grant to fund the surfacing of rural roads that play an important role – linking social amenities like schools, clinics and hospitals. Mr. Mntonintshi stated that unsurfaced roads negatively impact economic growth. The upgrading of roads is necessary to facilitate economic growth and access to public services.





A presentation on the Professionalisation of Local Government for Good Government, Effective and Efficient Service Delivery was delivered by Ms. Fikile Tshabangu from SALGA. In her presentation, it was noted that there is a demand for a high level of professional competence, experience and ethics on the part of local government employees and elected leaders, given the complex and challenging environment.

The Constitution (Section 195) specifies, as the first of the nine basic values and principles that should govern public administration, that, amongst others, “a high standard of professional ethics must be promoted and maintained”. To date, despite obvious variations between municipalities, based on category, size and other factors, with a number of examples of good practice, the over-riding conclusion from government reports, as well as academic and media commentary, is that local government as a whole is falling seriously short in meeting such professional requirements. Audit disclaimers point to the fact that the level of non-compliance with laws and regulations applicable to municipalities and municipal entities has increased, resulting in a substantial increase in the number of municipalities incurring unauthorised, irregular as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Ms. Tshabangu mentioned that the Repurposed Local Government Professionalisation Model consists of five pillars. And further mentioned the key interventions to undertake in the professionalisation journey as follows:

- Invest resources and dedicated effort towards reorientating local government functionaries to embrace the values and practices of

professionalisation.

- Advocate for an independent single local government regulatory authority.
- Monitor professionalisation through instruments of driving effective leadership, accountability, governance improvement and performance management.
- Undertake an empirical study to determine norms and standards for elected leaders and administrative officials and review current mechanism of institutional professionalisation.
- Link how institutional professionalisation is exhibited:
 - Conduct of functionaries within public organisations;
 - Organizational design;
 - Customer-facing business process reengineering arrangement;
 - Systems-based operating environment;

Image – perception that customers have about the professional standing of the municipal sector.

