

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

13 November 2018

### **Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize calls for Municipal Managers to drive the much-needed change in Local Government at SALGA's National Municipal Managers Forum**

Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Dr Zweli Mkhize has called for Municipal Managers to be at the forefront to drive the much-needed change in Local Government.

Speaking at the SALGA's National Municipal Managers Forum (NMMF) at Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Dr Mkhize, told delegates for changes to prevail in municipalities the municipal managers must be at the forefront of that change.

"Change in local government is in your hands! The local government space is the platform wherein programmes to transform society must be launched to achieve a better life for all our people. There is no room for inferior services, complacency, incompetence, indolence, dishonesty or mediocrity. The dignity and respect for municipal administration must be restored, and be restored fast!" Dr Mkhize said.

The 13th National Municipal Managers Forum is focusing on municipal innovation and how municipalities can use technology to achieve the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs). The first day of the forum saw presentations on policy agenda of local government and reflections on the outcomes of the recent ITU Telecom World 2018 which deliberated on preparation for 5G, deployment of broadband infrastructure and implications for municipalities.

The Forum is a network and a platform for sharing good practices and showcasing municipal achievements and most importantly, addresses vulnerabilities and difficulties that constantly challenge the sector.

Municipal Managers took the opportunity to raise matters of concern directly to the Minister, this included, among others, historic municipal debt; monies owed to municipalities by national and provincial spheres, businesses and households, which since March 2017 was sitting at 128, 3 billion. Managers pleaded with the Minister that politicians must refrain from interfering with administration issues of municipalities and on the other hand the Minister urged them to refrain from entangling themselves in politics.

Dr Mkhize said municipal managers have a duty to make democracy meaningful to all particularly the poor and marginalized communities. “You are called upon to serve our people with the best of your ability, skills and experience, without any fear, favour or any hint of partisanship. Our people do not deserve anything less than the very best,” he said.

SALGA’s continues to tackle the Eskom debt through the an inter-ministerial task team (IMTT) comprising the Minister of CoGTA, Minister of Energy, National Treasury, Public Enterprise and the SALGA Presidency, which is exacerbated by both the current status of constitutional, structural and systematic issues as well as by the unfavourable economic climate.

**END**

**Issued By: South African Local Government Association**

For further media enquiries, please contact:

Sivuyile Mbambato

Email: [smbambato@salga.org.za](mailto:smbambato@salga.org.za)

Mobile: 073 897 8519

Tebogo Mosala

Email: [tmosala@salga.org.za](mailto:tmosala@salga.org.za)

Mobile: 084 666 7699