



SALGA
South African Local Government Association

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011

Welcome Address by Amos Masondo
Chairperson

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF SALGA
AMOS MASONDO,
AT THE 4th SALGA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
DURBAN ICC, eTHEKWINI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

30 AUGUST 2011

SALGA Chairperson's Welcoming Address 2011

Programme Director

Representative of the Presidency, Minister Trevor Manuel

Acting Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Honourable Nathi Mthethwa

Premier of the Kwazulu-Natal, Honourable Dr Zweli Mkhize

All Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament

All Premiers

The MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Honourable Nomusa Dube

All MECs and Members of the Provincial Legislatures

Our Host, the eThekweni Mayor; Cllr James Nxumalo

The **Chairperson** of the National Council of Provinces, Honourable M J Mahlangu

The **Chairperson** of the National House of Traditional Leadership; Kgosi Maubane

The **Chairperson** of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Local Government; Honourable Lechesa Tsenoli

The **Chairperson** of the Select Committee on Local Government, Honourable Humphrey Mokgobi

Leaders of Political Parties present here

Leaders of Organised Labour present

The SALGA National Executive Committee

The SALGA Provincial Executive Committees

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers and Chief Whips

Fellow Councillors

Traditional Leaders

Organised Local Government Associations from the African Continent and the world

Representatives from UCLG; CLGF; UCLGA and Other Partners

Our Sponsors

SALGA Chairperson's Welcoming Address 2011

Friends, Esteemed Colleagues, Comrades; Distinguished Guests

All Senior Managers and Officials (from all spheres of Government)

All Civil Society Representative present here

Representatives of all Chapter Nine Institutions present here

The Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director, it is my honour and a privilege to welcome all of you in general; and the local government leadership and practitioners in particular, to this august Fourth SALGA National Conference.

Today; we meet in KwaZulu Natal. This is a province with an immensely rich history, culture and heritage. It was here that iNkosi uShaka had built a formidable army that acted as a catalyst to mould the amaZulu into a proud people. It was here that Mahatma Gandhi pioneered and sharpened his tool of peaceful resistance, satyagraha. This province has so much to teach all of us about the valuable lessons of anti-Colonial struggles, peaceful resistance and reconciliation.

And we also note with pride that in the past year, the South African people celebrated the arrival of the Indian population as indentured labourers. It is here that the contradictions amongst our various population groups find expression, but continue to mirror our efforts in South Africa to build a non-racial and a democratic society.

But this province has so much more to offer: from the uKhahlamba Mountains, the Valley of a thousand Hills, the St Lucia Bay Heritage Site and many more.

The Constitution, Programme Director, speaks of the three spheres of Government as distinct, interdependent and interrelated. In the coming few days, we shall be seeking to, amongst others, examine progress made to date, develop plans and endorse actions that need to be taken going forward. We will also consider possible amendments to the SALGA Constitution and elect new leadership.

As we grapple with all of these things, we should not lose sight of the centrality and importance of cooperative governance; the need to work together and maximize the impact on service delivery and the improvement of the quality of life of people.

In order to succeed in all the work that we'll be doing during this Conference, we will be relying heavily on our collective wisdom, leadership and guidance. We are therefore proud that many of you are here from across the length and breadth of our country to do work that will take SALGA to a different level.

Programme Director; allow me to also take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of Kgosi Maubane, Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders. The presence of traditional leadership can only help to strengthen the bonds of partnership and the good relationship between municipal councils and the institution of traditional leadership.

Honourable Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize, we thank you for having taken the time to grace us with your presence at this, the highest decision making body of organized local government. As is our culture, I cannot welcome all of these delegates without acknowledging an old and timeless tradition of our people, namely that one cannot just simply arrive in a geographic space such as this, without affording the relevant

courtesy and proper protocol. If one has not done so, one is likely to attract some severe penalty. We are honoured to be in your presence in this beautiful province.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm and special word of welcome to our international guests and the many observers from various sister associations.

We also welcome the presence of the private sector and all civil society partners who are with us today.

In everything we do over the next three days, we should continue to focus on the bread and butter issues and the challenges that afflicts our communities.

I wish every delegate and participant a fruitful and successful conference.

On behalf of the SALGA leadership collective, I am honoured to declare this conference open.

I thank you.



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