

Enquiries: S Mbambato  
Tel: 012 369 8000  
Fax: 012 369 8001  
E-mail: [smbambato@salga.org.za](mailto:smbambato@salga.org.za)

---

Media Statement  
For immediate release  
05 September 2017

## **SALGA wishes to convey its heartfelt condolences to the Magaqa family and loved ones**

SALGA has learnt with great shock of the passing of Sindiso Magaqa, a Ward Councillor in Umzimkhulu in southern KwaZulu-Natal and former African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) leader. Magaqa died at the Albert Luthuli Hospital in Durban from gunshot wounds he sustained in a suspected political related ambush in July. Magaqa and two other councillors were shot in July, not long after the murder of three others in the Umzimkhulu area.

More upsetting is that the Hawks say the death of Magaqa is a serious setback, as he was one of the key witnesses in their investigation into political killings in KwaZulu-Natal.

At the Moerane Commission of inquiry into political killings in KwaZulu-Natal, on 29 August 2017, SALGA called for tighter security for councillors. As SALGA, we maintain that the idea of political killings or political violence, conceptually, should be excluded away from criminal elements. By definition, an act of violence or even to the extent of killing municipal councillors and/or senior managers should be viewed within the contestation of power, it presents a direct attack on our hard won democracy. The rate of successful prosecution of councillor killings must be raised by turning councillor slayings into priority crimes.

SALGA wishes to convey its condolences to the Magaqa family. On behalf of Local Government, we pledge our solidarity and convey our heartfelt condolences to the Magaqa family and loved ones. We lower our banner to honour his life which he dedicated to the service of the people as a youth leader. Our prayers are with the family.

**End**

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

**For further media enquiries, please contact:**

**Tahir Sema | Mobile: 082 940 3403 | Email: [tsema@salga.org.za](mailto:tsema@salga.org.za)**  
**Sivuyile Mbambato | Mobile: 073 897 8519 | Email: [smbambato@salga.org.za](mailto:smbambato@salga.org.za)**