

MEDIA STATEMENT

Tuesday, 18 October 2022

South African Local Government Association Briefs Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on its Annual Report 2021/22

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) today, Tuesday, 18 October 2022, briefed the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) on its Annual Report 2021/22 during a virtual meeting.

SALGA's annual report provides a synopsis of activities performed by the organisation between April 2021 and March 2022 whilst providing context to the governance of the organisation in relation to its role and mandate in transforming local government as an employer body through advocacy, lobbying, capacity building, support and advice, representation and strategic profile and engagement.

Some of the highlights for SALGA in the period 2021 -2022 are:

- Achieving 92% on its annual performance targets;
- Attaining a 10th clean audit in a series of 13 consecutive unqualified audits since 2009;
- Successfully contributing to labour stability by signing five (5) multiyear collective agreements; and
- Actively lobbying for the inclusion of local government issues in amendment of key legislations (i.e., Structures Amendment Bill, Systems Amendment Bill, National Land Transport Bill) with the key objective to ensure that progressive policies that continue to enhance the work of local government are passed while those that have an undesirable impact on local government eliminated and prevented.
- 61 municipalities benefited from the Municipal Audit Support Programme (MASP) training and 43 from Municipal Public Accounts (MPAC) training.

SALGA President Cllr Bheki Stofile reflected: "SALGA's 10th consecutive clean audit for the 2021-22 financial year again attested to its financial health, which is fundamental to public accountability and provides assurance about its ability to manage public funds responsibly and effectively.

"Noteworthy achievements included a Coalition Government Framework, drafted with the Dullah Omar Institute, to help political parties and councillors form and manage coalitions," Cllr Stofile said.

In maintaining labour peace and stability in the sector as well as in ensuring the continuation of service delivery without any interruption, the recent Collective Agreement with municipal worker unions was signed without incidents or disruption to service delivery, while 7 484 councillors and traditional leaders benefitted from SALGA's Integrated Councillor Induction Programme.



The past year 2021 marked SALGA's 25th anniversary. While an important milestone, it was a time for reflection and an opportunity to envisage SALGA's continued contribution to the transformation and professionalisation of local government.

Presenting to the Portfolio Committee on CoGTA, Acting CEO Lance Joel said: "During the past post-pandemic financial year, SALGA proved itself resilient to lingering economic shockwaves and challenging conditions. We achieved 57 of 62 (or 92%) of our performance targets, which is consistent with an average annual performance of 90% for the past 13 years. We also delivered record results that included a 34% growth in assets to R565.9 million (2020: R372.6 million) and an increase of nearly 5% in membership fees to R686 million (2020: R652.7 million)."

A focal point during the reporting period was the effective closing out of the final year of SALGA's 2017-2022 strategic plan, reporting an outstanding performance in the full five-year period.

President Stofile informed the portfolio committee that SALGA was in transition following the 2021 Local Government Elections and its new leadership, which constitutes SALGA's highest decision-making body, was elected at the organisation's 6th national conference in Cape Town, March 2022, and progress towards finding a new CEO following a departure of its CEO Xolile George, who has since joined Parliament as a Secretary, is well underway.

SALGA has continued to provide its associations within the region and the continent with direct support and advice in areas relating to governance and effective lobbying and advocacy strategies. SALGA plays an active leadership role in the structures of world bodies such as the United Cities Local Governments (UCLG) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), as well as the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) within the continent which, among others, resulted in partnerships and positive spinoffs for local municipalities and the Southern African Region.

A SALGA/VVSG (Belgium) partnership has linked three local municipalities (Witzenberg, Nquthu and Bergvliet) with three in Brussels (Essen, Bornem and Heist-op-den-Berg) in city-to-city collaboration to share best practices in waste management.

SALGA's results bear testimony to the high-performance culture within the organization and Cllr Stofile extended his gratitude to the collective leadership of SALGA for their unwavering commitment to ensuring that SALGA fulfils its mandate.

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