

Media Statement

For immediate release

Monday, 05 February 2018

Persistent Water Crisis tops agenda

SALGA National Executive Committee met on Monday, 05 February 2018, Cape Town

The South African Local Government Association National Executive Committee (SALGA NEC) has called for greater collective efforts to mitigate challenges brought by the persistent drought crisis and more action to combat climate change and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Giving his political overview at the start of the SALGA NEC meeting, SALGA President Parks Tau says local government leaders must give greater consideration to combatting climate change and fundamentally change the approach.

President Tau said: “The recent events, such as the severe drought crisis following low rainfalls and now severe storms, are all confirmation of the threat posed by climate change. The scale of the threat posed by climate change and the impact that it has on the lives of our communities can no longer be taken for granted.”

The NEC re-affirms the call for greater collective climate action to implement the Paris Agreement.

“The City of Cape Town and the broader provinces of the Western Cape, the Eastern and Northern Capes are directly affected by the impact of climate change. The current drought crises in these provinces, should serve as a warning about managing water responsibly,” President Tau said.

At the NEC meeting affected cities, City of Cape Town, Nelson Mandela Bay and eThekweni made presentations on how they were managing the water crisis.

END

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