

Media Release
For immediate release

11 August 2016

South African Local Government Association and National School of Government join forces

PRETORIA – The South African Local Government Association together with the National School of Government today signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will see collaboration in areas of capacity building and learning to skill and empower mayors, councillors and senior managers in local government.

The signing ceremony, which took place in Pretoria, Thursday 11 August 2016, comes at a time when local government is preparing to welcome the new and returning councillors for the fourth democratic local government term. This is a stage where basic systems of governance at a local level are urgently needed. Induction is required to ensure that the newly elected councillors are also empowered with “general understanding” of the leadership roles, legislations and key municipal processes.

SALGA CEO Xolile George said the cooperation was in line with what the National Developmental Plan requires of local government by 2030.

“As part of SALGA’s role to transform local government, so as to fulfil its developmental mandate, it is our responsibility to capacitate the sector to enable it to play a developmental and transformative role in South Africa.

“Our end goal is that the citizens should confidently put their trust in local government and its committed leadership, not only in addressing the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment but to create a sphere that is free of corruption,” Xolile George said.

The cooperation between the two organisations has been a long time in the making. Back in 2014 when the SALGA Centre for Leadership and Governance had been conceived, one of the first partners that SALGA had approached was the National School of Government.

Principal of the National School of Government Prof Richard Levin said the cooperation was a critical intervention and a bold step towards professionalizing the sector.

“We need a well-run and effectively coordinated local government sphere, staffed by skilled municipal officials who are committed to the public good and capable of delivering consistently high quality services for all South Africans, while prioritizing the nation’s developmental objectives,” Prof Richard Levin.

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