

MEDIA INVITATION / ADVISORY

29 February 2016

Release of the 2015 Water Services Municipal Benchmarking Report, Outcomes of Urban Drinking Water Quality Perception Findings and Municipal Wastewater Technology Guide

In 2015, South Africa was confronted by the worst droughts to ever hit the region in 30 years and this added to a number of myriad challenges in the water sector, particularly for municipalities. Despite all these challenges, SALGA, together with the Minister of Water and Sanitation, the Government as a whole, and its strategic partner Water Research Commission have been continuously seeking ways to improve the quality of water and sanitation services in South Africa through various interventions.

The members of the media are especially invited to the Release of the 2015 Water Services Municipal Benchmarking Report, Outcomes of Urban Drinking Water Quality Perception Findings and Municipal Wastewater Technology Guide. The release of these important reports is to give a post, current and future outlook on the status of water services in the country, going forward, and answer serious questions such as "what are we doing to address our shortcomings?"

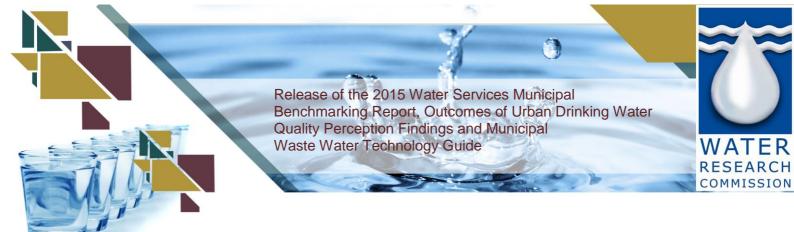
The details of the event as follows:

Date: 4 March 2016 Time: 08h30 – 13h30

Venue: Emperor's Palace, Kempton Park – Gauteng

The release of the Annual 2015 Water Services Municipal Benchmark Initiative (MBI), an initiation of SALGA in collaboration with Water Research Commission aims to support municipalities in improving the efficiency of service delivery in the area of water management through comparative performance benchmarking and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing. Where resources are limited, benchmarking can cut costs, save time and ensure regulatory compliance while at same time reducing poverty, advancing education, and increasing living standards.

The release of Annual Report on Water Services in South Africa 2015 will be accompanied by an interactive engagement programme. Chairperson of SALGA Cllr Thabo Manyoni will deliver a welcome address and set the tone for a series of panel discussions featuring the Minister of Water and Sanitation: Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs: Mr. David Van Rooyen, to mention the few. Water Research Commission Dr. Valerie Naidoo will present on Waste Water Technology Guide.



Municipal Benchmarking Initiative is a SALGA led initiative supported by the Water Research Commission "for municipalities, by municipalities, to benefit of municipalities"

The media interested to attend the event is kindly requested to RSVP to smbambato@salga.org.za before 1 March.

For further media enquiries please contact:

Tahir Sema

Communication Manager

Mobile: 082 9403 403

Emil: tsema@salga.org.za

Sivuyile Mbambato

Media Relations Officer

Mobile: 073 897 8519

Email: smbambato@salga.org.za