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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Local Government Leaders Step Up in the 7th Parliament and Administration

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) would like to extend its congratulations and welcome to the newly appointed leaders of the 7th Parliament and Administration, including the Cabinet, new Members of Parliament, and Provincial Legislatures. Following the successful National and Provincial elections and the subsequent formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU), South Africa has once again demonstrated the resilience and strength of its democracy.

During this significant transition, many leaders from the local government sphere have been called upon to serve in the national and provincial administrations. This emphasises the interdependence and interrelatedness of the different spheres of government, as highlighted by SALGA President Cllr Bheki Stofile:

“While these spheres are distinctive, having leaders in the Cabinet, National, and Provincial governments who understand the complexities and imperatives of local government is a tremendous advantage. It directly benefits grassroots communities and significantly accelerates service delivery,” says Cllr Bheki Stofile

The organized local government sector rightfully contributes to the broader leadership cohort, with many officials transitioning from local to national and provincial roles. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa delineates the functions and responsibilities among the three spheres of government, distinguishing between exclusive and concurrent responsibilities.

Following President Cyril Ramaphosa and the Premiers appointing their executive teams, evidently, several local government leaders have risen to prominent positions in the new administration. The 7th democratically elected Cabinet, appointed by President Ramaphosa, also aligns with the SALGA Women’s Commission’s (SWC) call for gender representation in all structures of the new Administration, ensuring continuity and bringing a wealth of experience from the local government sector.

The association would particularly like to applaud the appointments of the following representatives:

In the **SALGA Governance** structures, SALGA celebrates the following:

- **Hon. Authur Thami Ntuli:** King Cetshwayo Mayor and SALGA KZN Chairperson appointed as Premier of Kwa-Zulu Natal
- **Hon. Sylvia Nxumalo:** Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Executive Mayor and SALGA Deputy Chairperson to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).
- **Hon. Ald. Paul Swart:** Cape Agulhas District Mayor and SALGA Western Cape PEC member to the National Council of Provinces

- **Cllr Jongizizwe Dlabathi:** SALGA Gauteng Chairperson appointed as the Finance MMC in Ekurhuleni

Provincial Legislature:

- **Hon. Jesta Sidell:** Ehlanzeni District Municipality Executive Mayor and SALGA Mpumalanga Chairperson
- **Hon. Khethiwe Moeketsi:** Executive Mayor Dipaleseng Local Municipality and SALGA PEC member
- **Hon. Ntandokazi Yolisa Capa:** OR Tambo District Municipality Speaker and SALGA National Commissioner (SWC)
- **Hon. Nthabiseng Julia Garekoe:** Xhariep District Municipality Chief Whip and SALGA Womens' Commissioner
- **Hon. Ald. Memory Booysen:** Garden Route District Mayor and SALGA Western Cape Deputy Chairperson

Eastern Cape:

- **Hon. Helen Elizabeth Neale May:** Buffalo City Metro Municipality Mayoral Committee member to the National Assembly
- **Hon. Thokozile Sokhanyile:** OR Tambo District Municipality Deputy Mayor and SALGA PEC member to Provincial Legislature

Free State:

Provincial Legislature:

- **Hon. Nthabiseng Julia Garekoe:** Xhariep District Municipality Chief Whip and SALGA Womens' Commissioner
- **Hon. Dulandi Leech:** Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Councillor
- **Hon. David Mark Campbell Mckay:** Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Councillor
- **Hon. Thapelo Masoeu:** Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Councillor

Gauteng:

Provincial Legislature:

- **Hon. John Koboekae:** Mogale City Local Municipality Mayoral Committee member
- **Hon. Nkululeko Dunga:** City of Ekurhuleni Mayoral Committee
- **Hon. Zelda Khathutshelo Rasingwane:** Councillor (City of Ekurhuleni) to the Provincial Legislature
- **Hon. Leanne Jennifer De Jager:** Councillr (City of Tshwne) to the Provincial Legislature

National Assembly:

- **Hon. Lerato Mikateko Ngobeni:** City of Johannesburg Councillor
- **Hon. Kingsley Wakelin:** City of Tshwane Councillor
- **Hon: Thandi Nontenja: Councillor** (City of Johannesburg) to the National Assembly

- **Hon. Tumelo Robert Ramagalo:** Councillor (Emfuleni Local Municipality) to the National Assembly

KwaZulu-Natal:

- **Hon. Mxolisi Kaunda:** Mayor of eThekweni to National Council of Province Working Group Member
- **Hon. Mncedisi Cyril Maphisa:** Abaqulusi Mayor appointed as Member of Parliament

Limpopo:

National Council of Provinces:

- **Hon. Regina Molokomme:** Waterberg District Municipality Speaker and SALGA Provincial Commissioner
- **Hon. Frans Mokwele:** Mogalakwena Local Municipality MMC

Provincial Legislature:

- **Hon. Choene Malebana:** Capricorn District Municipality Chief Whip and SALGA PLC Representative with IEC
- **Hon. Morris Mataboge:** Waterberg District Municipality Executive Mayor and SALGA Chairperson of Governance, and IGR Working Group
- **Hon. Mhloti Muhlope:** Vhembe District Municipality Chief Whip and SALGA Chairperson of Municipal Capabilities and Resilience Working Group
- **Hon. Dowelani Nenguda:** Vhembe District Municipality Speaker
- **Hon. Dikeledu Mmetle:** Mopani District Municipality MMC
- **Hon. Maria Mokgwathi:** Greater Letaba Local Municipality PR Councillor
- **Hon. Daily Matjomane:** Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Exco
- **Hon. Maseka Pheedi:** Capricorn District Municipality Speaker
- **Hon. Daily Matjomane:** Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Exco
- **Hon. Constance Kupa:** Sekhukhune District Municipality MMC

Members of Parliament:

- **Hon. Ethel Ligaraba:** Thulamela Local Municipality Exco
- **Hon. Paulina Makgato:** Molemole Local Municipality PR Councillor
- **Hon. Joyce Bila:** Collins Chabane Local Municipality PR Councillor
- **Hon. Reneilwe Pholwane:** Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality Speaker
- **Hon. Stan Ramaila:** Sekhukhune District Municipality MMC
- **Hon. Masesi Mashego:** Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Speaker, appointed as MEC for Health.

Mpumalanga:

Provincial Legislature:

- **Hon. Thulisile Khoza:** Ehlanzeni District Municipality MPAC Chairperson
- **Hon. Daniel Pitoli Nkosi:** Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality Executive Mayor
- **Hon. Eva Makhabane:** Nkangala District Municipality Mayoral Committee member

North West

Provincial Legislature:

- **Hon. Tshepo Khoza:** City of Matlosana Local Municipality Mayoral Committee member
- **Hon. Justice Dabampe:** Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality Mayoral Committee member

Western Cape:

Provincial Legislature:

- **Hon. Leon van Wyk:** George Local Municipality Mayor
- **Hon. Noël Constable:** Beaufort West Local Municipality Speaker
- **Hon. Thozama Lithakong:** Theewaterskloof Municipality Councillor
- **Duwayne Jacobs:** City of Cape Town PR Councillor
- **Hon. Francois Kamfer:** Cederberg Municipality Councillor
- **Hon. Basil Petrus:** George Municipality Councillor
- **Hon. Dirk Wessels:** George Municipality Councillor

Further to these appointments, SALGA applauds the appointment of several key representatives, including the new Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Hon. Velinkosi Hlabisa, and his deputies, Hon. Dickson Masemola and Hon. Zolile Burns-Ncamashe. Additionally, SALGA acknowledges the significant contributions of its former presidents now serving in various portfolios within the 7th Administration, including Minister Thembi Nkadimeng and Minister Parks Tau, among others.

As an association of municipalities, SALGA remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering meaningful intergovernmental relations. Now more than ever, the state of local government requires a concerted collective effort to address the ongoing challenges that impede service delivery.

End.

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