

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

04 June 2021

Major strides made in municipal negotiations

DURBAN; Friday, 04 June 2021: Municipal negotiators have made meaningful progress towards reaching a collective agreement for the 2021 Salary and Wage negotiations at the SA Local Government Bargaining Council, paving the way for the formulation of a framework for a proposed agreement between the Parties.

This week the Parties have agreed to extend the negotiations beyond the final round to allow the designated Facilitator of the negotiations to formulate a detailed proposal to cover all the areas that are a subject matter of negotiations.

Proposals developed by negotiations facilitators are very often effective instruments for facilitating an agreement when Parties have mandated positions that are difficult to reconcile, as is the case with current negotiations and with similar negotiations processes across the public sector.

Generally, the objectives of the Facilitator's Proposal are as follows:

- To create a conducive environment for facilitating an agreement on the terms specified in such a Facilitator's Proposal
- To identify and register areas of emerging consensus

- To highlight areas where Parties have to seek further directives from their constituencies
- To bring the parties to an orderly conclusion of the negotiations process and avert a deadlock

SALGA remains cautiously optimistic that the outcomes of the latest round of negotiations may result in an agreement that is in the best interest of municipal sustainability and labour peace. The introduction of a Facilitator's Proposal will also afford municipalities another opportunity to consider the viability of the proposals made.

Editor's Note: The labour at the bargaining council is being represented by two trade unions, the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) and Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (IMATU), with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) as an employer body representing 257 municipalities nationwide.

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For media enquiries:

Sivuyile Mbambato

Email: smbambato@salga.org.za

Landline: 012 369 8000

Mobile: 073 897 8519