



**SALGA**  
South African Local Government Association

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### 5 QUICK FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

One of the primary roles of South African Local Government Association (SALGA) is to transform local government to enable it to fulfil its developmental role by turning municipalities into professional and responsive entities to be able to fulfil their important objective of accelerating service delivery as well as promoting development in local government as a whole. On 5 December 2015 Local Government will be marking 15 years since its establishment as an independent sphere of government since the year 2000. Here are 5 quick facts you should know about SALGA.

1. The mandate of SALGA is to lobby, advocate, protect and represent the interest of local government at relevant structures and platforms. SALGA serves as the representative voice of all 278 municipalities in South Africa. One of the key priorities for SALGA in the period 2014/15 was to influence the legislative and policy review process for local government by lobbying against policies and legislation that have an undesirable impact on local government. SALGA made several legislative and policy proposals this year which will contribute to a functional local government. Some of the submissions relate to the upper limits of salaries for senior managers, the devolution strategy for local government, the amendment of the Public Office Bearers Act, the draft monitoring, support and interventions framework, property rates bill and the amendment to the Criminal Procedure Act relating to cable theft, to stop the damaging and tampering of essential services' infrastructure legislation, to mention just a few.
2. SALGA has part-time representatives to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in Parliament who contributes immensely in improving SALGA's visibility in the NCOP in

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pushing the interest of local government. The Organised Local Government Act recognises SALGA as a representative of organised local government. This allows local government to designate up to ten part-time representatives to the NCOP in Parliament.

3. SALGA achieved improved clean audit outcomes from the Auditor General three years consecutively. In year 2014/15, SALGA achieved 98 percent against its Annual Performance Plan – an outstanding achievement. SALGA has evolved into a high performance organisation having achieved over 95% of its targets over the last two years. SALGA CEO Mr Xolile George was recently recognised as the Continental Winner in the Public Enterprise sector of CEO Global Titans - Building Nations 2015 Awards. Mr George himself was a recipient of numerous awards in his previous roles as the regional director, executive director for community development and also the executive director of economic development in the City of Johannesburg, and was named as a Boss of the Year finalist in 2014.
4. In its efforts to professionalize and strengthen capacity in local government, SALGA has established a Center for Leadership and Governance (SCLG) which is poised to offer local leaders a value based offering. The National Development Plan makes it clear that meeting our transformation agenda as a country requires capable municipalities that can create safe, healthy and economically sustainable localities where people can work, live and socialise. An efficient and responsive local government is critical to the NDP.
5. In June 2014, SALGA took a bold step to launch the Municipal Audit Support Programme (MASP) to provide hands-on support to municipalities who received adverse or disclaimed audit opinions. The MASP Programme is executed through a delivery model based on benchmarking and peer review. 22 municipalities received direct support in 2014/15 and 9 of these showed immediate improvement in their financial governance and audit outcomes and have since migrated into better audit opinions. The MASP programme is geared towards achieving clean governance and an accountable local government to ensure that the public funds are used responsibly and are accounted for.

SALGA continues on a daily basis to make great strides in turning municipalities into professional and responsive entities. The organization today is responsive, agile and able to respond to the many challenges faced by the Local Government sector.

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