



SALGA
South African Local Government Association

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Media Statement

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South African Local Government Association briefs Parliamentary Portfolio Committee (National Assembly) on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on its Annual Report 2014/15

CAPE TOWN – Parliament - Tuesday, 14 October 2015 - The South African Local Government Association today briefed the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on its Annual Report 2014/15, in Committee Room M315, 3rd Floor, Marks Building, 09h00 – 14h00.

SALGA annual report provides a synopsis of activities performed by the organisation between April 2014 and March 2015 whilst providing context to the governance of the organisation in relation to its role and mandate in transforming local government through advocacy, lobbying, representation and strategic engagement.

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 on policies and legislation that impact on local government. Their key objective is to ensure that progressive policies that continue to enhance the work of local government are passed while those that have an undesirable impact on local government are prevented.

SALGA - Organisational Performance

SALGA has achieved 98 percent against its APP in 2014/15 – an outstanding achievement. The organisation has evolved into a high performance organisation having achieved over 95% of its targets over the last two years. The organisation continues to maintain a relatively high profile position locally with its members and with stakeholders in provincial and national government, as well as with international bodies and other influential bodies with relevance to local government.

The organisation has achieved improved financial management having recorded the third so called clean audit in a row after a sustained period of difficulties. The financial health has also improved significantly which is an important feat in building a resilient body that is responsive to the needs of its member municipalities.

SALGA has continued to provide sister associations within the region and the continent direct support and advice in areas relating to governance and effective lobbying and advocacy strategies. SALGA has also played an active leadership role in the structures

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of world bodies such as the United Cities Local Governments (UCLG) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), as well as the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) within the continent. The City of Joburg (COJ) will host the next Africities Summit in November 2015 and SALGA has played a central role in supporting COJ to secure the right to host this prestigious summit and to provide thought leadership on the continent. .

SALGA Launched a LG Anti-Corruption Strategy in 2013

Accountability within local government is a key success driver in the adherence to the principles of good governance. SALGA has invested substantial effort in the fight against corruption in local government and these investments are starting to yield positive dividends. As a key outcome of the Anti-Corruption Summit the organisation developed a consequences and accountability framework for the sector, while municipalities were also assisted and encouraged to implement their own tailored anti-corruption policies.

All municipalities pledge to root out corruption and maladministration. SALGA adopted a consequences and accountability framework 2013/14. MFMA Audit by Auditor General indicates that over 50% of municipalities now have effective accountability and consequences mechanisms thus confirming efficacy of the framework.

Extensive reporting is now emerging in the media on municipalities taking a stance and implementing their own mechanisms.

Municipal Audit Support Programme (MASP)

SALGA took a bold step in June 2014 to launch 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 through migrating into better audit opinions.
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The following 9 migrated into positive outcomes;

- Kgetlengrivier Municipality
- Kannaland Municipality
- Naledi Municipality
- Bushbuckridge Municipality
- Uthukela Municipality
- Ugu Municipality
- Vulamehlo Municipality
- Modimolle Municipality
- Mier Municipality

General hands on support also provided to the 79 municipalities that were in the Red Zone. These have since been reduced to 64.

SALGA Billing and Revenue Enhancement

A billing and revenue enhancement research project was initiated. Findings of the research will assist municipalities to implement systems and programme to improve revenue enhancement and debt collection in particular.

SALGA Centre Leadership and Governance

At the forefront of professionalizing local government, a relatively new entrant to the SALGA family, is the SALGA Centre Leadership and Governance (SCLG) which is poised to offer local leaders a value based offering.

The SCLG has secured funding and other support to develop leadership capacity in the areas of governance, media and stakeholder engagement and ethics. The Centre is in the process of concluding peer learning agreements with its counterparts in Malawi and Namibia toward building the capacity of local government associations in the SADC Region and to provide our own councillors and practitioners and opportunity to learn from those who are doing well in other parts of the continent.

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