

Media Release

For immediate release

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SALGA condemns attacks directed to Foreign National and calls for Municipalities to provide help to victims

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) strongly condemns the looting of shops, destruction of property and sporadic attacks directed to Foreign Nationals as experienced in the country over the last few days. As a voice of local government representing South Africa's municipalities, SALGA is deeply concerned with the violence in Gauteng and wishes to categorically state that there is no justification for violence in a democratic state irrespective of grievances that the perpetrators might have.

In solidarity with our fellow Africans who might be displaced due to the ongoing attacks, SALGA calls for municipalities to gear themselves up to provide shelter and temporary accommodation should a need arise. It is a role of local government to promote social cohesion and to foster nation building that binds us together towards a common sense of identity and sense of belonging. Irrespective of structural challenges confronting South Africa, we must be willing to extend trust even to those we see as outsiders and respect one another and uphold each other's dignity, and to be moved to action in the face of persistent inequality on behalf of those who are marginalised.

Despite stemming from a divided past, South African nationals are lovers of peace and freedom, let us step up our international solidarity efforts, in both word and deed, with our fellow Africans and isolate those with criminal intents and violent tendencies and proclaim bolds #NotInOurName.

Furthermore, we commend the law enforcement agencies for acting swiftly to apprehend perpetrators of violence and damage to property. SALGA calls on Metro Polices to work hand in glove with Security Clusters to ensure prevention of further violence and looting that may arise.

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