



SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SALGA

Inspiring service delivery

PORT ELIZABETH DECLARATION

SALGA NATIONAL MEMBERS ASSEMBLY

18 – 20 MAY 2016

WE the **six hundred and forty (640) delegates** at this Special National Members Assembly of the South African Local Government Association, drawn, from **230 member municipalities** in the Republic of South Africa, gathered here at the Boardwalk International Convention Centre, at Summerstrand, in Port Elizabeth from 18-20 May 2016 accept, of our own free will, to note with pride the significant strides that the local government sector has made over the past 15 years in its democratic form and commit to continue serving our people and consolidate the gains made towards deepening of the quality of democracy across the length and breadth of the Republic.

INSPIRED by the presence and participation of the representatives from the Independent Electoral Commission, the Chairperson of the Finance and Fiscal Commission, the Municipal Demarcation Board, representatives of both houses of Parliament, the Speaker of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Deputy Ministers of CoGTA, the Member of the Executive Council responsible for cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the Eastern Cape Province, representatives of the Houses of Traditional Leaders at this Special National Members Assembly, and Organised Labour, as a clear demonstration of their continuous commitment to local government as the sphere closest to the people.

ACKNOWLEDGING the support and participation of all key stakeholders, including civic organisations and the media, in this Special National Members Assembly and the collective role they play in strengthening the system of local government in South Africa.

APPRECIATING the conditions under which councillors have to fulfil their obligations and **MOURNING** the loss of many councillors and municipal officials through natural death and in some instances through violent attacks in the line of public duty; as Local Government leadership, we pledge our solidarity and convey our heartfelt condolences to their families and loved ones. We lower our banners to honour the lives of these fallen heroes and heroines in the service of our people and pledge to pick up their spears and re-double our efforts in advancing the quest to deepen local democracy, development and the quality of life of our people.

CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS the continuing number of sporadic illegitimate, illegal and violent community protests leading to the destruction of property, most recently in Vuwani destroying our children's futures, including the increasing attacks on councillors, their families and assets. We call upon our law enforcement agencies to leave no stone unturned in bringing to justice all the culprits of these dastardly deeds. We remain confident on the ability of our government working together with all the people to explore all possible avenues to resolve the genuine grievances of the people. Collectively, we implore all South Africans to treasure our hard won freedom and exhaust all available productive and peaceful means of engagement with our government within the provisions of our progressive constitution.

APPRECIATING the work of the Independent Electoral Commission and the Municipal Demarcation Board in executing their constitutional and legal mandate in support of democracy and ensuring readiness for the electoral transition.

APPRECIATING the complex nature of the local government transition which is intertwined with the thoroughgoing national transformation in terms of which the structural configuration of the South African economy prefigures the plight of a municipality in terms of geographical location, which compels us to re-emphasize a differentiated model having due regard to historical factors, category, size and locus of municipalities.

CELEBRATING and collectively expressing confidence and satisfaction with the performance of local government over the last 15 years and in particular the 3rd democratic term, most notably the significant strides and achievements made by municipalities on transformation and deepening of local democracy, particularly in the areas of:

- a) Providing democratic, accountable and good governance to their constituents
- b) Extending basic services and the quality thereof to so many millions of South Africans
- c) Effecting positive social and economic transformation and social cohesion
- d) Providing safe, clean and healthy environment for communities

- e) Sound financial management and growing credibility and resilience of our balance sheets

NEVERTHELESS, while collectively appreciating and celebrating the progress made, we remain conscious of the fact that many communities have yet to taste the fruits of freedom and democracy. Therefore appreciating that the intensification of the back to basics programme will be the anchor of the next phase of strengthening municipal institutional performance, innovation and resilience, because we know and must acknowledge that there are indeed still a few municipalities that are not resilient, responsive and people centered.

ENDORISING the candidacy of the City of Johannesburg for the President of the United Cities and Local Governments global body of local and regional governments, as part of strengthening the South African local government association and profiling South African local government to the world.

CELEBRATING the 20 years of the South African Local Government Association as a formidable, vibrant and robust voice and representative of municipalities in the Republic of South Africa, more particularly its growth and development over during the last five years, including

1. The operational efficacy and positioning of SALGA as a member centric organisation that supports and represents municipalities in the intergovernmental system in South Africa;
2. The effectiveness of SALGA's contribution in the international arena including the supportive role that it plays within re-uniting the continent;
3. The establishment of SALGA Women's Commission to advance gender mainstreaming within the local government sector;
4. The instrumental role played by SALGA in promoting and profiling of good practices, innovations, knowledge sharing and peer learning;
5. The continuing improvement of SALGA's advocacy and lobbying capacity towards fair and an equitable welfare and payment dispensation for local government public

office bearers

6. The establishment of SALGA's Centre for Leadership and Governance which is uniquely positioned to provide responsive capacity interventions and facilitate establishment of communities of practice; and
7. The increasing recognition of the leadership role of SALGA as a hub of expert knowledge and general information by members and key strategic players in the sector.

REPOSITIONING SALGA THROUGH THE LAUNCH OF ITS NEW BRAND to build on its legacy and inspire local government to deliver and be the point of collaboration in mobilizing social and business partnerships to uplift our communities, particularly in thought leading the implementation and localisation of the profound opportunities offered by the Sustainable Development Goals, the National Development Plan, Africa's Vision 2063 development goals and the Integrated Urban Development Framework to ensure that municipalities systematically confront the stark realities of the past and create a future which is more sustainable, inclusive and just.

NOTING the ongoing and sporadic incidences of xenophobia and social disintegration that continues to rear its ugly head in many of our communities. We collectively condemn these incidences and make a clarion call to all municipalities to mainstream tangible programmes of social cohesion to strengthen and build bonds of social solidarity amongst our people. In this Africa month, we join all the peace loving and genuine freedom lovers all over our mother continent, the continent of Africa in expressing our joy and pride in being Africans and our affirmation to our belief in the spirit of our African Renaissance.

AFFIRMING the commitment of the local government sector to contribute towards continuously improving and implementing all the pillars of the Back to Basics programme as to provide differentiated responsive hands on support to all and ensure operational efficacy, good governance as well as ensuring a reduced trust deficit between citizenry and municipalities.

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVE to:

- a) Work with all spheres of government and relevant institutions to build resilient municipal institutions that are able to continue operating efficiently and effectively regardless of the challenges of transition
- b) Accelerate our quest to ensure all municipalities are grounded in terms of the basics and indeed forge ahead towards building smart governance leveraging on the benefits offered by ICT
- c) Declare to support all municipalities that have been identified to pilot the Integrated Urban Development Framework and to foster a systematic investment on the inherent interdependency between rural and urban spaces in our municipalities
- d) To provide active support to all municipalities to ensure readiness in terms of transitional arrangements prior, during and post the forthcoming local government elections
- e) Provide maximum support to councillors during this transition period, particularly by ensuring that the gratuities and pension fund affairs of non-returning councillors are in order.

ACCORDINGLY adopt the:

- a. Organisational Report for the period 2011-2016 of the Chairperson
- b. Annual Report 2014/15
- c. Annual Financial Statements for 2014/15
- d. Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2016/17

AND DECLARE as members of SALGA our commitment to the work still to be done by organised local government, in partnership with CoGTA and our other stakeholders, in preparation for the upcoming transition and that we prepare the way for the next generation of councillors and leadership to carry on the good work and build on this foundation. It remains our collective resolve to redouble our efforts to accelerate the pace of socio-economic transformation and in particular eradicate the stubborn backlogs of service delivery that still remain.