



What South African President Nelson Mandela asked of local government at the 1996 National Summit for Organised Local Government in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.



SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SALGA

Inspiring service delivery

Nelson Mandela Day, observed on July 18 every year, inspires locally elected representatives to act as change agents and produce positive outcomes for the communities they serve.

This day is celebrated by local government because it brings out the best qualities of the municipal workforce and local leaders in communities across South Africa.

By upholding the values and principles Nelson Mandela stood for, the day provides local government officials and councillors with an opportunity to more fervently demonstrate that they care about their communities and want to make a difference.

After all, the statesman himself urged councillors in attendance at the 1996 National Summit for Organised Local Government, which gave birth to the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), to critically evaluate whether they had lived up to their constitutional obligations and the expectations of their communities.

According to Mandela, every councillor should ask themselves the following questions: “Have I made a difference to the quality of life of the people? How successful have we been over the past year in delivering essential services to residents, such as sanitation, roads, refuse removal, health services, electricity? Have we been able to deliver water and to mend the leaking pipes and the broken meters? Have we been able to bring services to the informal settlements and the rural areas? Have we deserved the trust that communities put in us?”

These questions are just as relevant today as they were then.

Local government work is a noble profession, and as the second year of municipal councils’ five-year

terms progresses, Mandela’s questions ought to constantly be on councillors’ minds and in their consciences as they carry out their day-to-day duties.

Mr. Sithole Mbanga, SALGA’s new CEO, has his first day on the job.



The month of July also sees Mr. Sithole Mbanga, SALGA’s newly appointed CEO, start his first day on the job.

Having most recently served as the CEO of South African Cities Network (SACN), a membership-based organisation of South Africa’s largest cities (or metropolitan municipalities) that promotes the exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices on issues of local government, urban development, and city management, SALGA is fortunate that Mr. Mbanga is familiar with local government.

His prior positions place him right at the center of the ecosystem for our sector.

SALGA appreciates all the warm welcome messages to its new CEO, and to establish a clear transition path that will not only help Mr. Mbanga adjust to his new role but also foster and strengthen positive relationships between him, SALGA member municipalities, and stakeholders, SALGA commits to supporting Mr. Mbanga as he embarks on his new journey.

SALGA Provincial Member Assemblies (PMA's)

Throughout the month, SALGA will host PMA gatherings. Every year, about 30 days before the organisation's National Members Assembly (NMA), PMA meetings are held.

A PMA is a gathering of all SALGA member municipalities in a province that includes, among others, Mayors and Councillors, Speakers of Council, Municipal Managers, and Chief Financial Officers to discuss local government issues of common interest, find areas of cooperation, and find solutions to service delivery issues.

SALGA provincial annual performance plans, annual performance plans, and the budgets for the financial year, as well as reports from governance structures and other oversight bodies, will also be considered by a PMA.

Commemorative events


- July marks the commemoration of Moral Regeneration Month, an initiative of the Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM), which is aimed at encouraging people to recommit to efforts of building communities grounded on positive

values and rededicate to building a caring society in pursuit of creating lasting peace and prosperity in the country.

- Bone Marrow Stem Cell Donation and Leukaemia Awareness Month 2023 (15 July to 15 August). Leukaemia is a group of bone marrow diseases involving an uncontrolled increase in white blood cells (leukocytes). Each year, 35 people in every million learn that they have leukaemia of whom five will be children.
- World Population Day (July 21) seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, particularly in the context of overall development plans and programmes, and the need to find solutions for these issues.
- World Hepatitis Day (28 July) is marked to increase the awareness and understanding of viral hepatitis and the diseases that it causes. It provides an opportunity to focus on specific actions such as: strengthening prevention, screening and control of viral hepatitis and its related diseases, increasing hepatitis B vaccine coverage and integration into national immunisation programmes coordinating a global response to hepatitis.

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