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FROM : CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
TO : EXECUTIVE MAYORS /MAYORS
SPEAKERS
CITY MANAGERS /MUNICIPAL MANAGERS
DATE : 25 MARCH 2022

PROFILING OF THE SYMPOSIUM OUTCOMES ON ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The attached report on the National Symposium on Alternative Technological Innovation on the Protection of Municipal Infrastructure has reference.

The National Symposium on Alternative Technological Innovation for the Protection of Municipal Infrastructure was held at the Radisson Blu (Gautrain) Hotel in Sandton, Gauteng, on 15 September 2021. The blend of attendees at the Symposium included, municipalities, relevant sector departments and partners, operational experts in the field of protection infrastructure assets, legal experts in the implementation of legislation related to infrastructure assets protection, analysts with innovative solutions, academics, and researchers in this field with a nexus to the use of technology and innovation.

The focus of the Symposium was on an integrated, multi-agency approach that envisions enhancing collaboration and co-operation between the public and private sector in protecting infrastructure assets.

At the heart of protecting municipal infrastructure is that public and private sectors are committed to the same goals because they share the same interests.



Information sharing intensifies the efforts to engage in mutual activity that will identify strengths and weaknesses of this fight and subsequently allow for better investment and allocation of resources to achieve successful outcomes.

Key outcomes from the Symposium for local government to consider include: -

- 1.1. Collaboration between experts, public and private stakeholders that will enhance local government's ability to detect imminent threats, new trends and potential vulnerabilities. This will be achieved through the implementation of alternative innovative technological solutions. Local government must consider, in consultation and/or collaboration with SALGA, engaging external expertise and support to build up technology-led innovation.
- 1.2. Incorporating and using emerging technology, skills, and capabilities to get ahead of the threats that will place municipalities in a stronger position to protect their communities. Innovation is a **process** that aims on building strategic proficiencies and skills within local government that focus on the problems, risks and partnerships needed to be proactive to service delivery pressures and strengthen our municipalities and communities.

To ensure that the desired outcomes of the Symposium are effectively understood and realised, SALGA will be working with strategic partners in rolling-out capacity building programmes with municipalities that will address, not only the protection of municipal infrastructure, but also ensure that the personnel of municipalities have the skills and knowledge to ensure sustainability thereof.

For any enquiries on the contents of the Report on the Symposium on Alternative Technological Innovation on the Protection of Municipal Infrastructure, and related processes, please do not hesitate to contact Ugeshni Naidoo at unaidoo@salga.org.za or on 012 369 8000.

Yours faithfully,



XOLILE GEORGE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

