

## MEDIA STATEMENT

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### **Government concludes a successful international migration workshop to build consensus and unified approach in managing international migration**

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SALGA President Cllr Bheke Stofile, together with Home Affairs Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, supported by Ministers of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Ms Thembi Nkadimeng, Small Business Development, Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams and Human Settlements, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi, led a successful international migration workshop which took place at Birchwood Hotel on 16th -17th October 2023. The workshop was attended by District and Metropolitan Mayors, Traditional and Khoi San leaders, leadership from the National and Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders and Khoi and San Leaders, Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (“CONTRALESA”), National Khoi and San Council and the Royal Leaders of South Africa (“ROLESA”).

The workshop was aimed at building consensus and building a whole of government approach to managing international migration and to clarify the roles of all stakeholders. The workshop also reviewed the impact of illegal immigration in communities in borderline and inland municipalities from presentations that were done by the Metropolitan and District Mayors.

SALGA hosted a summit on international migration on the 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> March in Polokwane. The objectives of that summit were to first create a common understanding of the challenges imposed on municipalities by the poor management of immigration and lay a basis for better coordination of all relevant partners for the effective management of migration, and to identify key multisectoral programmes that should be implemented. The recently held workshop continued that quest. SALGA is committed to an intergovernmental approach to managing international migration.

“SALGA acknowledges that migration is a global phenomenon. If well managed, it can be beneficial to a country and cannot be stopped by any country. However, there are legal parameters within which any country functions, and those should be implemented by all sectors of government. It is important that the laws of the country are respected and upheld by every person that is within the South African borders” said Cllr Bheke Stofile.

The workshop resolved to establish a team of senior officials from different government entities, who are charged with implementing and providing updates to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on thematic areas that have been identified.

The areas include amongst others.

1. International Agreements that need to be reviewed with a view to accede to them with reservations.
2. Policy and legislative reforms.
3. Development of standard omnibus of bylaws to assist local government in the areas of trading, human settlement, and other areas.
4. Border law enforcement
5. Establishment of a permanent technical and political IGR committee to manage international migration.
6. Review of resource allocation for municipalities to address the unique resources pressures of municipalities.
7. Capacitation of municipalities of data analysis and providing reliable migration data to municipalities for planning.

With insights from the workshop, SALGA, working with member municipalities is determined to support the Minister of Home Affairs, and work with all the sectors, and traditional and Khoisan leaders to address the challenges of international migration through the mechanisms agreed upon.

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