

Enquiries: Sivuyile Mbambato
Tel: 012 369 8000
E-mail: smbambato@salga.org.za



Physical:
Block B, Menlyn Corporate Park,
175 Corobay Ave, Waterkloof
Glen Ext II, PRETORIA 0181

Postal: PO Box 2094,
PRETORIA 0001

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sunday, 3 September 2023

SALGA gears up for the National Members Assembly in Gauteng 5 – 6 September 2023

Ekurhuleni, Gauteng – The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) is in full preparation mode for the upcoming National Members Assembly (NMA) set to take place at the Birchwood Hotel & Conference Centre, Ekurhuleni, from the 5th to the 6th of September 2023. This assembly, a significant milestone in the realm of local government, is expected to be the biggest political event of the year, bringing together esteemed leaders and stakeholders from across the country.

The 25th Anniversary of the 1998 White Paper on Local Government:

As this assembly marks twenty-five years since the adoption of the 1998 White Paper on Local Government, its theme is aptly set as: "25 Years since the Advent of the 1998 White Paper on Local Government: Are We on Course and Driven in Building a Sustainable, Responsive & People-Centered Local Government." This theme will provide the foundation for the grand debate, led by local government founders and stalwarts, including COGTA Deputy Minister Parks Tau, Chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders Kgosi Milton Seatlholo, SALGA Women's Commission Cllr Ntandokazi Capa, and Secretary to Parliament Mr. Xolile George.

Discussion and Action:

At present, the state of local government remains precarious in many fronts, exacerbated by low economic activity and the erosion of municipal revenue which has caused many municipalities to be in financial distress. New governance systems to address instability caused by Coalitions Arrangements are necessary while also municipal authorities need to be agile to ensure that their financial autonomy remains intact and greater jurisdiction over revenue is adaptive to the prevailing political and economic environment.

During this assembly, crucial discussions and debates will take place, focusing on the plan of action for the local government sector. Notably, the assembly will address local governance systems, policies, and legislative matters that directly impact the current state and future of local government.

A Gathering of Distinguished Representatives:

The NMA will bring together public representatives from all three spheres of Government, including Cabinet Ministers, Municipal Leadership in the form of Executive Mayors, Speakers, MMCs, Chief Whips, Councillors, Municipal Managers, and Chief Financial Officers from the 257 municipalities across the country. Additionally, labour unions, dignitaries and international guests will be in attendance.

The NMA Official Opening:

The NMA will kickstart with an official opening at 09h00 on Day 1 with Premier of Gauteng Panyaza Lesufi scheduled to deliver a welcome address including COGTA Minister Thembu Nkadimeng for a ministerial address.



Key Agenda Items:

The assembly's key agenda includes a reflection on the progress and challenges faced by local government since the municipal elections in November 2021, a critical examination of current sector challenges, recommendations for appropriate mechanisms to address them, and the adoption of a program of action. Furthermore, the assembly will serve as a platform for municipalities to share best practices and ideas to invigorate local government.

Statement from SALGA President Cllr Bheke Stofile:

SALGA President Cllr Bheke Stofile, on the importance of cooperation among all spheres of government, civil society organizations, and communities, says: "The assembly stems from the SALGA constitution that directs and makes provision for the convening of provincial and national members' assemblies. We are immensely proud that in keeping with the constitution and the spirit of cooperative governance; we welcome the leadership from all spheres of government.

Local government, as the sphere closest to the people, has a specific responsibility to ensure that it delivers democratic local government and ensures that the quality of life of people continuously improves. This can only become a reality if we work together and build a strong partnership."

Report on Progress:

The SALGA National Executive Committee, elected in the National Conference held in March 2021, Cape Town, will provide an account of the progress made and its performance since taking office.

Six Commissions for Comprehensive Discussion:

To delve into the prevailing issues affecting local government, six commissions have been planned, covering areas such as Municipal Financial Sustainability, Professionalization and Compensation Benefits, Health, Community Development, Community Safety, Planning, Human Settlements, Urban and Rural Development, Sustainable Energy Models for Municipalities, and the District Development Model (DDM).

SALGA is committed to fostering a thriving local government sector that is responsive and people-centered. The NMA represents an integral step towards achieving this vision.

Editors Notes: Members of the media are advised to register for **MEDIA ACCREDITATION** on SALGA website (NMA Banner) or follow this link: <https://2cm.es/styO> before the registration closes Monday, 04 September 2023, 11h00.

#NMA2023 #InspiringServiceDelivery

END

Issued by: South African Local Government Association

For further media enquiries:

Sivuyile Mbambato, Email: smbambato@salga.org.za; Mobile: 073 897 8519
Tebogo Mosala | Email: tmosala@salga.org.za | Mobile: 084 666 7699