



SALGA launches the first of its kind - the Karoo Intergovernmental Forum



The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) successfully hosted the first sitting of the Karoo Intergovernmental (IGR) Forum in Breede Valley municipality on 10 November 2022. This first sitting of the IGR Forum brought together various municipalities across the Karoo in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Western Cape.

Prior to the establishment of the Karoo IGR Forum, the DALRRD together with the Department of Cooperative Governance presented two options for the institutional and governance arrangements for the Karoo Region at the 6th Karoo Small Town Regeneration (STR) conference held in Oudtdhoorn on 16-17 May 2022, namely:

- Intergovernmental (IGR) Forum; and
- Development Agency.

Post the conference, approximately ninety percent of the municipalities from across the Karoo selected the IGR Forum for the institutional and governance arrangements.

The Karoo IGR Forum represents South Africa's first inter-provincial, bottom-up institutional and governance arrangements. These arrangements are necessary to formalise inter-municipal cooperation in the Karoo, given that it has been proclaimed as a region according to Section 18 of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013).



Mr. Clinton Heimann, the Deputy Director General from DALRRD, gave a keynote address. In his address he stated that the Karoo region is leading the country with the establishment of these institutional and governance arrangements. And that the rest of the country can learn a lot from the progress that has been achieved by the Karoo.

Mr Stephanus Minnie, Director at DALRRD, provided an overview of the Karoo Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF). He added that this has been quite a journey that the initiative has travelled so far.

“The Karoo IGR Forum is a first for South Africa, as this is the first time that local interest overrides national interest. Nowhere in the country do we have such a bottom-up initiative. Although we are proud of our achievements so far, we understand that the actual work starts now with the implementation of the Karoo RSDF,” said Mr. Minnie.

- Deputy Working Group Technical: Cllr Stanley Peterson (EC)



In his closing remarks, Cllr. Rhodee Itumeleng, as the incoming Chairperson of the Karoo IGR Forum, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity that was given to him to lead the Forum.

“I am humbled to be elected as chairperson of the Karoo IGR Forum by the various municipalities in the Karoo. I look forward to working with all municipalities to ensure the full development of the Karoo region,” he said.

Mr Khalil Mullagie, SALGA WC’s Provincial Director of Operations, led the process to elect political representatives for the Karoo IGR Forum. The following representatives were selected as follows:

- Overall Chair: Cllr Rhodee Itumeleng (NC)
- Overall Deputy Chair: Cllr Vania Davids (EC)
- Political Working Group Chair: Cllr Kallie Louw (WC)
- Political Chair Deputy Chair: (FS)
- Technical Working Group Chair: Cllr Jakobus Daniels (WC)

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