

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For immediate release**

**Tuesday, 24 August 2021**

### **SALGA WOMEN'S COMMISSION (SWC) TO CONVENE A NATIONAL SEMINAR & LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MASTERCLASS SERIES (25 – 27 AUGUST 2021)**

The SALGA Women's Commission (SWC) will convene a three-day National Seminar & Local Government Women Leadership Development Masterclass Series, 25 -27 August 2021, under the theme "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: Reflecting on Tangible Solutions for Gender Equality in Local Government (Past Achievements and Future Goals)".

The newly elected Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Hon. Thembi Nkadimeng will deliver a keynote address. Other prominent speakers to grace the national seminar includes women leaders hailing from various spheres of government, civil society, academia, research and policy institutions, the Common Wealth Women in Local Government Network and will reflect on issues affecting women; leadership and representation, security and peace, policy and Covid-19 implications on women, among others.

The event also takes place at an opportune time when South Africa's political parties and independent candidates have just submitted party lists with the Independent Electoral Commission intending to contest local government elections.

SALGA Women's Commission National Chairperson Cllr Florah Maboja-Boltman says: "The national seminar will reflect on the gender parity (representation and participation) of both political and administrative leadership positions and report on the SWC Journey and progress with the implementation of the SWC resolutions during 2016 – 2021 term of office.

"Women's equal participation is guaranteed by the Constitution, however, political parties have not done enough to make women representation a reality. The Gender Links Elections Report (2016) points to a mere 3% point increase of women's representation in local government from 38% of elected Councillors in 2011 municipal elections, to 41%, following the 3 August 2016 municipal elections. Women's representation increased in party proportional representation lists (48%), but dropped to 32% of ward Councillor posts. This has implications for our country in terms of meeting regional and international commitments for achieving gender equality by 2030", says Cllr Florah Maboja-Boltman.

On the evening of the first day, at 18h00-19h00, an award ceremony will be held to recognise women leadership excellence and to celebrate women leaders who have achieved clean audits in terms of the Auditor General Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) reporting. These inaugural awards for the SWC will progressively include other categories and even broaden to the administrative leadership excellence of women.

### **The Details of the 25 -27 AUGUST 2021, 10h00**

To register for the SALGA and Partners for the Women's Commission National Seminar and Masterclass series on Local Government Women Development Programme, click on the link below:

<https://salga-org-za.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtf-ivrTwwE9ZPeIWcbNAH7AQPFpw5LDMK>

Since its inception in 2010, the SWC coordinates, promotes and advocate for gender appropriate strategies and practices within member municipalities and feed into regional, continental and global processes. One of the strategic objective of the Commission is to increase the representation and participation of women in local government to parity.

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