



NCOP LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Cllr. Thembi Nkadimeng
SALGA President

“Closing Statement of Local Government Week”

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP

Honourable Ministers of COGTA and Finance

Deputy Ministers of COGTA and Finance

MECs

Honourable Members of the NCOP and National Assembly

Members of the SALGA National Executive Committee

Mayors, Executive Mayors, Speakers and Councillors

Members of the Public Service

Allow me to start-off by expressing sadness at the passing of a true activist for humanity and gallant freedom fighter Advocate George Bizos SC yesterday. We join fellow South Africans in extending heartfelt condolences to Adv Bizos' family, friends and colleagues in the legal fraternity in South Africa and abroad. We have indeed lost a veteran in Adv Bizos and his legacy and contribution to a new and better South Africa should be celebrated by all. May his soul rest in peace.

On behalf of the South African Local Government Association, as joint pioneers, together with the National Council of Provinces, of this NCOP Local Government Week, it is indeed an honour to make this closing statement and express our sincere gratitude to all those who made this Local Government Week a reality.

Honourable Chairperson of the NCOP, the active participation, and the lively debates, exchanges and real engagements exceeded our expectations. So much so, that I believe this Local Government Week conducted under very difficult circumstances and exploiting the “new normal”, has witnessed an unprecedented and major convergence of views that is ground breaking not only for local government, but similarly for national and provincial government. Let me also hasten to add that it has stirred both the national and provincial legislatures to play a more pro-active role in strengthening oversight over all three spheres of government.

Despite the complexity of our different interests and challenges, I’m confident Chairperson that we all agree that cooperative governance is at the epicentre of advancing the interest of local government and breathing life into the theme of this year’s Local Government Week of **“Ensuring Capable and Financially Sound Municipalities”**.

As I said during the Opening Session, since its launch in 2012, the previous Local Government Weeks had concluded on very useful outcomes, of which very few has found expression through implementation. It is therefore incumbent on us, Honourable Chairperson of the NCOP, that the solutions as proposed over the past three days must find expression through implementation. This Local Government Week must therefore assign specific people to

work with us in driving these initiatives and in processing recommendations through the government system, cabinet committees and other such approval structures.

We indeed have a responsibility, amongst others, to ensure a sense of urgency in the implementation of the tasks as directed and entrusted by this Local Government Week, and in doing so to build a stronger local government that is more effective and efficient in carrying out its mandate to the greater benefit of the communities we serve.

In conclusion, on behalf of the leadership collective of the South African Local Government Association, I wish to thank everyone for participating in this 2020 Edition of the NCOP Local Government Week.

I thank you.