

# SALGA APPOINTS NEW ACTING PRESIDENT

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has appointed its two deputy presidents to share the responsibility of leading the organisation towards the upcoming local government elections and the elective SALGA National Conference. This follows a vacancy created by the departure of former Executive Mayor Thembu Nkandimeng, who was recently appointed as the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

Executive Mayor Sebezile Ngangelizwe has been appointed as its acting president until the Local Government Elections, with Mayor Deon De Vos to take over the reign until the SALGA elective National Conference.

Cllr Sebezile Ngangelizwe, served as one of two Deputy Presidents of the SALGA National Executive Committee

since 2016. He brings along a wealth of local government experience and has a full grasp of the complex challenges facing local government, including what needs to be done to make local government work for the people and communities to achieve its the developmental agenda.

Cllr Ngangelizwe is no stranger to SALGA's leadership echelons; from 2008 to 2016, he successfully led SALGA Free State as the Provincial Chairperson. During those years, he served as executive mayor of Lejweleputswa District Municipality until April 2010. Later in that year, he was redeployed to serve as the executive mayor of Matjhabeng Local Municipality until July 2016.

During his tenure as the executive political head at Lejweleputswa, he is attributed for bringing stability and turning the municipality around from attaining qualified audit reports to



*Cllr Sebezile Ngangelizwe*

an unqualified audit report for the 2008/2009 financial year.

Following the 2016 municipal elections, Cllr Ngangelizwe returned to Lejweleputswa District Municipality where he is still serving as the executive mayor.

SALGA wishes Cllr Ngangelizwe well as he leads the organisation and the sector to prepare for the transition towards the fifth term of local government. 🌍

with some of the most important professional friendships in my career thus far.

## How do you envisage your role as head of centre?

I want to build on the great groundbreaking work already done by my predecessors and the current staff and actively seek ways of optimising performance and the impact that we have as a Centre, focusing on continual learning and improvement. There is much that can still be done to improve how we work and what we achieve.

## What are the challenges faced by the disaster management professionals in South Africa?

Disaster Management, as described in the Act, is a very broad concept that includes a wide array of activities requiring a wide variety of skills. To be fully effective in Disaster Management as envisaged in the Act, the disaster management professional needs

to be comfortable in operational response as well as strategic policy, in a corporate boardroom as well as on the scene of an incident. We need to be able to plan and implement, research and teach, convince and advocate, control and coordinate. This boundary-spanning role, encompassing risk reduction as well as response and recovery, is difficult but rewarding and very, very interesting and stimulating. Our biggest challenge though is to make others understand and contribute to what we are doing and to achieve our goals through the actions of others.

## How do you envisage the future of the disaster management?

We will need to focus more and more on effective information management in an environment where everything is talking to everything and information overload is a reality. There are many technological advances to be made. An expected more harsher climate will bring more hazards and vulnerability

and demand better response management and adaptation and resilience. We will need to become more adept at inclusive and coordinated cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary actions, both in risk reduction and in response.

## If you could mentor fellow disaster management professionals, what advice would you give?

Remember you are here to serve others first and foremost, not yourself. Read and research, learn, listen and experience as much as you can. Be respectful of others and open to learn from them, do not become too impressed with your own achievements or importance or grow long toes easily stepped upon. Avoid having strong opinions based on limited information. Take a deep breath and think before you act. Good collegial mutually beneficial relationships across all borders and boundaries are vital. Always cultivate a good sense of humour and remember to have fun doing good well. 🌍