

**OPENING REMARKS BY SALGA NORTHERN CAPE
PEC MEMBER: CLLR MOTSHABI MOKGATHLANYANE**

**KNOWLEDGE SHARING DIALOGUE ON INCLUSIVE
PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITY IN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

07- 08 OCTOBER 2019

Programme Director;

Councillors from the four provinces;

Officials from government departments, entities and municipalities;

**Representatives from various youth groups, women groups and
reps from organisations representing people with disabilities.**

SALGA officials;

Ladies and gentlemen;

A very good morning to you all.

On behalf of the PEC of SALGA Northern Cape I welcome you all in the beautiful City of Diamonds – Kimberley (*the City of the First*) in the Sol Plaatje Municipality. It is in this very same precinct where you find the biggest hand-excavated hole in the world. Kimberley does not only pride itself from being the first city in the Southern Hemisphere to install electric street lighting in 1882 - before those of London. It is also the first city to have a state school for physically disabled (established in 1954); hence it was more appropriate for this gathering to meet in Kimberley than anywhere else in the country – since one of the focus group for this dialogue is *people with disabilities*.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are gathered here today and tomorrow to deliberate , share knowledge and capacitate ourselves - *as EMCD municipalities, government departments, representatives of vulnerable groupings of the civil society* – on how best can we design and implement credible social cohesion programmes that enhances the lives of the vulnerable groups in our society, especially women, youth and people with disabilities.

The disadvantaged and marginalised groupings of the society mainly; women, youth and people with disabilities, need to have a greater say in decision-making processes in government initiatives. From participating in the planning, implementation and monitoring of local economic development initiatives as active citizenry.

The outcome of this dialogue is to capacitate the 12 EMCD municipalities (across the 4 provinces - the Northern Cape , the Western Cape , North West and the Free State with an ability to plan across boundaries and inclusively with all sectors of the society especially women, youth and people of disabilities.

In his presentation of the Presidency Budget Vote to the National Assembly on 17 July 2019, President Ramaphosa identified the “pattern of operating in silos in” in government as a challenge which led to “lack of coherence in planning and implementation which made monitoring and oversight of government’s programme difficult”. The President said the consequence of this challenge was non-optimal delivery of services and diminished impact on the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Last month, President Ramaphosa officially launched the first pilot site of the district-based coordination model dubbed "Khawuleza" The District-based coordination model is a response to (1) government's own recognition of shortcomings in service delivery and (2) to demands by citizens and institutions of civil society for improved delivery. The model aims to address service delivery and economic development challenges through the synchronisation of planning across all spheres of government, working alongside social partners such as business and community.

In view of these developments, I would like to applaud SALGA and its partners for organizing this knowledge sharing dialogue. The time for fragmented planning is behind us, we need to plan coherently as a region as the challenges we face are common across the board and development knows no boundaries. Though the two regions (Karoo and Bojanala) are not pilot for the Khawuleza model, we need not be complacent. Instead, we need to stay ahead of the curve and better organize ourselves as government, business, and civil society, in order to make the district based approach a reality.

This two day dialogue, *ladies and gentlemen*, held under the theme 'Inclusive *Participation on Local Economic Development involving Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities*', must deliberate on the strategies to ensure inclusive economic participation by women, youth persons with disabilities, and must not shy-away from addressing and asking uncomfortable questions. Most importantly, the dialogue must come up with solutions to problems confronting vulnerable groups in the Karoo and Bojanala regions.

I urge participants to find ways to guide municipalities, local government and partners on how to ensure inclusive and maximum economic participation by women, youth and people with disabilities.

In closing, let me also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the European Union (EU) Commission, the main funder of the programme. It is through SALGA's growing international footprint that we are able to form such partnerships.

I would like to end off with a fitting quote by *Helen Keller*

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much"

I thank you