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DATE: 29 August 2018

The Chairperson of the Human Settlement Standing Committee

The Provincial Parliament
7 Wale Street
Cape Town
8000

Dear Chairperson,

REQUEST TO TABLE AN OUTCOMES REPORT FROM THE SALGA HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POLICIES AND PROCESSES WORKING SESSION

The Human Settlements Portfolio Standing Committee at its meeting held on 15 March 2018, requested the Provincial Department of Human Settlements to convene a workshop with municipalities and SALGA to discuss housing policies and municipal challenges around housing project identification and integrated housing development amongst others.

The workshop was held on 20 April 2018 at the Provincial Parliament. At this engagement municipalities raised a number of challenges associated with the policies and processes that are not clear and are hindering a smooth delivery of the housing function at local level. A resolution was made that SALGA will convene a working session with both the National and Provincial Departments of Human Settlements and the Municipalities to discuss these challenges and to look at possible policy amendments.

On 27 July 2018 SALGA convened the working session at its Cape Town Offices. To provide feedback on the discussions and outcomes of the working session to the Standing Committee, SALGA would like to request the tabling of the attached report at the meeting scheduled for 11 September 2018 for information.

Below are the key Working Session Resolutions:

1. National Beneficiary Selection and Allocation Policy

- The national department to provide the set timeframe to finalise the Policy as it has been under development since 2016.
- There is an opposition on the notion of the establishment of allocation committees at local level as a prerequisite.
- Municipalities requested that another round of consultation be done on the draft policy.

2. The drafting of the National Policy on Provision of Services for Backyard Dwellers

- The municipalities welcomed the development of this policy.
- Concerns were raised on the proposed options (solutions) in terms of how these will be integrated in the municipal town planning strategies and compliance to the building regulations.
- As a way forward the municipalities requested that a consultation session be convened to allow for a more comprehensive deliberation on the draft policy.

3. Guidelines and Policy for Provision of Services to Military Veterans

- The Departments should intensify communication with the municipalities to provide direction on the process, programmes and national plans directed to the Military Veterans.
- The Department of Military Veterans (DMV) to provide municipalities with a guideline with timeframes and requirements on the Military Veterans registration process.
- DMV's database is outdated and should be updated regularly to ensure correctness and to also be made available to the municipalities.
- Proposal for the amendment of the Military Veterans Act to cater for the Spouse and Children of the qualifying Military Veterans who have passed on, as they are often left behind destitute.
- Municipalities must meet DMV's building specifications for the houses allocated to the Military Veterans and they can incorporate these in their Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) projects.
- DMV highlighted that they are in a process to develop a framework that will guide the partnership between the DMV, National and Provincial Departments of Human Settlements, SALGA and municipalities.

4. Other Issues Raised By Municipalities for Consideration

- There is a need for provision of a differentiated approach to provide top structures on serviced sites allocated for beneficiaries who are unable to develop their allocated sites due to changes in their finances.
- The Maximum income of R3500 has been unchanged for years resulting in most applicants in need of housing opportunities not qualifying.
- There is a need for the Department of Human Settlements to devise a process that will speed up and provide means to access land owned by other organs of the state (e.g The Department of Public Works, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Department of Forestry and Agriculture, etc) for housing projects. This is an issue that impacts most municipalities and must be dealt with urgency.

Should you require more information on the content of the attached report please feel free to contact Ms Neziswa Mtsewu at nmtsewu@salga.org.za or Ms Shantal Harigobin at sharigobin@salga.org.za

Kind Regards,



KHALIL MULLAGIE
PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER