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SALGA
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Director General
Department of Provincial and Local Government
Private Bag X804
Pretoria
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Att: Mr. T Motlashuping
Fax: 012 3344828

Dear Director General

RE: CROSS-BOUNDARY MUNICIPALITIES LAWS REPEAL AND RELATED MATTERS AMENDMENT BILL, 2008

We refer to the Cross-Boundary Municipalities Laws Repeal and Related Matters Amendment Bill as published in the Government Gazette of 12 December 2008 for public comment.

We confirm that the bill was circulated to the relevant municipalities and a meeting was convened with the Executive Mayors, Speakers and Municipal Managers of the respective municipalities on 8 January 2008 to fully consider the implications of the proposed legislation.

We are pleased to inform you that there is an overwhelming support for this Bill as well as the related Constitution Sixteenth Amendment Bill. Concerns have, however, been raised with regard to the implementation date, transitional arrangements and the financial implications relating to both the Cross Boundary Municipalities Laws Repeal Bill and the Constitution Sixteenth Amendment Bill.

Implementation date and Transitional Arrangements

In view of the fact that both provincial and municipal boundaries would be re-determined simultaneously it is likely that this may only be implemented on the date of the next local government elections in 2011. This implementation date is supported as it would, amongst others, allow sufficient time to put the appropriate structures and systems in place to ensure a smooth transfer and transition. It is proposed that structures at both technical and political level should be established to facilitate this transition.

Financial Implications

The process of re-incorporating Merafong Local Municipality from Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality (North West Province) to West Rand District Municipality (Gauteng Province) will have serious financial implications for all three municipalities as well as the two provinces. In this regard it is proposed that the necessary financial assistance should be provided by national government to support the facilitation of a smooth transition.



We thank you for affording us the opportunity to submit these comments and we assure you of our full support during the parliamentary legislative process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Joel', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

LANCE JOEL
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER