

South African Local Government Association is an autonomous association of all 257 South African local governments, comprising of a national association, with one national office and nine provincial offices. Membership of the association is voluntary. SALGA accounts to its members in terms of the SALGA Constitution (as amended in 2016) and its Governance Framework regulating its structures and mandating processes. The organisation has a National Executive Committee comprised of elected councillors (primarily mayors and office bearers in municipalities) that is responsible for the affairs of the organisation between National Conferences and Members' Assemblies, which are the highest and second highest decision making bodies of the association respectively. Its administration is headed by a Chief Executive Officer.

SALGA has set out its role to represent, promote and protect the interests of local governments and to raise the profile of local government, amongst other objectives.

Since its establishment, SALGA has endeavoured to bring focus to its mandate of supporting local government transformation in a complex environment, characterised by a highly diverse membership-base of municipalities. In terms of its amended Constitution, SALGA is a unitary body that consists of a national association and nine provincial offices.

SALGA has a clear strategic role to play in representing the interests of local government within the system of government as a whole and supporting its members to fulfil their developmental obligations, on the other. As a full partner in government, SALGA is expected to be an active participant in the intergovernmental relations (IGR) system, to provide common policy positions on numerous issues and to voice local government interests, as well as provide solutions to the challenges facing local government more generally.