

MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

06 September 2019

SALGA condemns attacks directed on Foreign Nationals and calls for Municipalities to provide help for victims

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) strongly condemns the looting of shops, destruction of property and sporadic attacks directed on Foreign Nationals as experienced in the country over the last few days. As a voice of local government representing South Africa's municipalities, SALGA is deeply concerned with the violence in Gauteng and wishes to categorically state that there is no justification for violence in a democratic state, irrespective of grievances that the perpetrators might have.

In solidarity with our fellow Africans who might be displaced due to the ongoing attacks, SALGA calls for municipalities to gear themselves up to provide shelter and temporary accommodation should a need arise. It is a role of local government to promote social cohesion and to foster nation-building to bind us together towards a common sense of identity and sense of

belonging. Irrespective of structural challenges confronting South Africa, we must be willing to extend trust even to those we see as outsiders, respect one another, uphold each other's dignity and to be moved to action in the face of persistent inequality on behalf of those who are marginalised.

Despite stemming from a divided past, South Africans are lovers of peace and freedom, let us step up our international solidarity efforts, in both word and deed, with our fellow Africans and isolate those with criminal intentions and violent tendencies and proclaim boldly #NoHnOurName.

Furthermore, we commend the law enforcement agencies for acting swiftly to apprehend perpetrators of violence and those who damage property. SALGA calls on Metro Polices to work hand-in-glove with Security Clusters to ensure prevention of further violence and looting that may arise.

-End-

Enquiries:

Tebogo Metswi

Email: tmetswi@salga.org.za

Landline: 087 357 4827, Mobile: 071 207 1526