

MECLOGA: A PROVINCIAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM OF THE MEC FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING, ORGANIZED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SALGA) AND MUNICIPALITIES

1. BACKGROUND

MECLOGA was initiated proactively in anticipation of the provision of section 41(2) of the Constitution that “ an Act of parliament must- (a) establish or provide for structures and institutions to promote and facilitate intergovernmental relations; and (b) provide for appropriate mechanisms and procedures to facilitate settlement of intergovernmental disputes.

MECLOGA was launched in 2000 comprising the MEC for Local Government and Housing, the chairperson and management committee of FRELOGA, representing organized local government in the Free State. A technical support structure was also established comprising the Head of Local Government and Housing, the CEO of FRELOGA, the directors and chief directors of the Department of Local Government and Housing and the managers of FRELOGA.

1.1. Purpose of MECLOGA

The purpose of MECLOGA is to promote and facilitate intergovernmental relations, as well as improve co-operative governance through consultation, co-ordination and participative decision-making between the MEC for Local Government and Housing and organized local government in the Free State.

In view of the anticipated legislation from parliament as provided for by the constitution MECLOGA did become a fully, effectively functional provincial intergovernmental structure.

2. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT, 2005

Following the promulgation of the much-anticipated intergovernmental relations framework Act in August 2005, MECLOGA was revived with a broader mandate. Section 21 of the Intergovernmental relations framework Act provides for the establishment on other provincial intergovernmental forums, other than the premier’s intergovernmental forum, however section 21 subsection(3) recognized provincial intergovernmental forums established when this Act took effect.

2.1. Revised purpose of MECLOGA

To promote and facilitate effective and efficient intergovernmental relations between the functional area of the province designated as local government and housing, organized local government representing

municipalities and executive authorities in municipalities designated in the municipal councils as executive mayors, mayors/speakers. The participation of municipalities has, however been broadened to include speakers due to their role in public participation and municipal managers due to their key role in the administration of municipalities.

MECLOGA is a provincial intergovernmental relations forum, which is consultative in nature.

2.2. Meetings, Agenda and Secretariat

Meetings of the MECLOGA are co-chaired by the MEC for Local Government and Housing and the Chairperson of organized local government in the Free State (SALGA-Free State). MECLOGA holds meetings once in a quarter. The schedule of meetings is determined and agreed upon in the meetings of MECLOGA.

The agenda for the meetings is determined by the MEC for Local Government and Housing in consultation with organized local government and municipalities. Some of the issues discussed come from MIN/MECs responsible for local government and housing where the MEC also sit.

The Department of Local Government and Housing provides administrative and other secretariat support services to MECLOGA.

2.3. Reports

MECLOGA as a provincial intergovernmental relations forum for the functional area of local government and housing, is expected to report to the Premier's Coordinating Committee, who in turn reports to the Presidential Coordinating Council, as the provincial executive responsible intergovernmental relations in the province.