



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **KSD MUNICIPALITY PARTNERS WITH CITY OF SURREY- CANADA**

The King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality has formed a developmental partnership with the City of Surrey. Surrey is a city in the province of British Columbia, Canada. It is a member municipality of the Metro Vancouver regional district and metropolitan area.

This partnership is founded under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) which is in partnership with the South African Local Government Association through which a contribution was received from Global Affairs to implement “The Building Inclusive Green Municipalities (BIGM)”. The programme is envisaged to last for a period of fifty one (51) months (4.3 years) and it aims to improve the capacity of South African municipal governments to support effective service delivery, inclusive local green economic growth and enhanced climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

The BIGM programme also intends to pilot local economic development initiatives to promote job creation, poverty reduction and enhanced well-being, while empowering women, youth and vulnerable groups and ensuring their inclusion as decision makers and beneficiaries.

This long term international cooperation between local governments is based on an official document (Partnership Agreement) adopted by the legislative body of the municipality and it consists of regular meetings between municipal representatives and citizens. This unique municipal partnership movement integrates all groups of citizens and will build on the strengths of FCM and SALGA and of their respective members to deliver good, sustainable local economic development and contribute to South Africa’s national priority of reducing poverty and transitioning to a low carbon economy. The programme will see new policies and tools developed and community projects will be piloted that lead to job creation and poverty reduction.

The overall outcome of the programme will be reduced poverty and improved climate change mitigation and adaptation within targeted municipalities in the Eastern Cape. Broad-based stakeholder involvement in city development strategies, participatory problem-solving through inclusive processes and pro-poor governance. The programme will also unearth the mobilisation of local resources and commitment for vulnerable groups and youth. It will create a framework for capacity development and support for institutions leading to better implementation while mainstreaming environmental concerns in local economic development.

The high powered delegation will arrive in Mthatha on Monday 09 October 2017. According to the planned programme, the event will start from Monday 09 up to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 with different activities that will be taking place (see attached programme).

Media Houses present will get an opportunity to interact and conduct interviews with the international delegation, SALGA and the local Executive Members.

For any further information on the matter, please contact the writer.

ends.

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