

Press Release: For Immediate Release

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Heading: Water Research Commission and SALGA launch the Water Technology and Innovation Forum

The Water Research Commission (WRC), in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) have launched the Water Technology and Innovation Forum (TIF). The purpose of the TIF is to serve as a platform to explore the challenges and opportunities for advancing the technology landscape at municipal level. Key to its function will be serving as a collaborative platform for municipal partners to share their innovation needs, mobilise partnerships and jointly conceptualise programmes, projects and funding.

Speaking at the virtual launch of the TIF, Chief Executive of the WRC, Mr Dhesigen Naidoo highlighted that the partnership-led forum sought to enable some critical pillars, among these being, “ setting up and expanding a network of testbeds for ground-breaking water and sanitation solutions emanating from South Africa and the global Research Development and Innovation partnership. We want South African districts, towns, and cities to be among the leaders in sustainable Water and Sanitation solutions”, he said.

The first day of the two-day launch saw the ceremonial launch of the Forum which focused on the value proposition and importance of technology and innovation. Wherein the president of SALGA Cllr Thembi Nkadimeng expressed SALGA’s need to create a different paradigm shift in its approach to water management, by using the TIF to re-image the delivery of water and sanitation to communities. In her remarks Cllr Nkadimeng concluded, “I need to emphasise the importance of collaboration and partnership, respectively. Without collaboration this initiative would not have materialized. To sustain it and ensure its success, working partnerships between private and public sectors need to be nurtured.

The second day of the launch programme focused on showcasing technologies and innovations, while the closing plenary highlighted the investment, benefits and solutions in technology and innovation through a strategically crafted programme. Its intent captured in the closing remarks of the WRC CEO Dhesigen Naidoo’s address, “Let us

through this Local Government Technology and Innovation Forum help to stimulate the investments (financial and political) and actions by all parties that enable our municipalities to become the theatres of change and transformation to a better greener future.”

Ends.



End.

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