

## SALGA Limpopo recognize best performing municipalities











he South African Local Government Association in Limpopo hosted a gala dinner to recognize the best performing municipalities in the province.

The event which is known as the Salga Municipal Audit Awards was held in Polokwane on Thursday on the backdrop of the NEC Lekgotla. The chairperson of Salga in the province, Councillor Pule Shayi said the awards were important in encouraging good governance in municipalities.

Delivering the welcome address, Shayi who is also the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality said "in the eyes of many, local government is perceived as corrupt. We are viewed as inefficient and incapable of performing. Therefore, the premium becomes even too much on the part of us to perform better so that we regain the trust for our people to begin to have confidence on the work we do. So, where there is good performance in our municipalities, we must pause and take note.

"Salga holds a view that as the mouthpiece, but also advocate representing municipalities for good governance, we should be able to occupy that space and recognize the best, efficient and good performance where its applicable," he said.

The Greater Letaba Municipality and Maruleng Municipalities were amongst the big winners on the night. The two municipalities received awards for their spending on MIG and also for unqualified audit opinions. The biggest winner was the Capricorn District Municipality, which was recognized for having received a clean audit opinion.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the premier, MEC Basikopo Makamu said that poor spending by municipalities will no longer be tolerated, saying "there is no excuse for poor spending."

Makamu said that he has noted the progress made by both Mopani and Vhembe district municipalities on improved spending on grants. "I commend the Executive Mayor of Mopani for having gone a step further to commit that any invoice that gets into the municipality and is well verified must be paid within three days. This will contribute positively to our emerging businesses and assist the economy of our province."

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