



**METRO** 3  
SAB plant expansion creates jobs



**BR** SA set to overtake Nigeria, Egypt as top dealmaker

P9



**METRO** 5  
NSFAS cancels contracts

**SPORT** 15  
KZN clubs look to end 14-year drought

# Does Salga CEO deserve hefty salary?

■ It is currently R3.8m ■ Association says remuneration not linked to municipalities' performances

SIBUSISO MBOTO  
sibusiso.mboto@ioli.co.za

THE CEO of the SA Local Government Association (Salga) is earning an annual salary of R3.8 million in spite of most municipalities in the country being in a distressed or dysfunctional state.

The salary came into the spotlight recently after it emerged that former Salga CEO Xolile George, who is currently the secretary of Parliament, got a significant pay hike a year into his position at Parliament.

But Parliament announced that this reviewed remuneration package "was set below (by about 26%) what he earned in his previous position as CEO of Salga". His salary at Salga was reportedly more than R5m.

Salga confirmed this week that current CEO Sithole Mbanga earns R3.8m per annum which includes basic salary, medical aid and other benefits.

Salga is an "autonomous association of all 257 SA local governments", which aims to "represent, promote and protect the interests of local governments and to raise the profile of local government" according to its website.

While some KwaZulu-Natal mayors agreed that the salary was commensurate with the workload of the position, uMngeni Municipality mayor Chris Pappas and former Salga CEO Makhosi Khoza said the salary should be reviewed.

Pappas insisted that the salary package warranted a review. "There are certain issues that need to be properly aligned within local government and the CEO's salary is one such matter that needs to be addressed because it does not seem justified," said the DA premier candidate for the 2024 elections.

Aside from the CEO's salary, the mayor said the equitable share allocation for municipalities also warranted reviewing as some were barely getting by with their allocations from national government.

Khoza agreed that the current CEO's salary warranted reviewing as it was not in line with the realities of the country, especially the performance of municipalities.

She said that the hefty salaries of city managers of metros and other big municipalities could be justified.

"City managers co-ordinate and oversee the performance of engineers, accountants and technicians working under them and the performance of the entire municipal structure is their responsibility," Khoza said.

She maintained that amid calls for financial discipline, the Salga CEO's salary was out of line. "It is not palatable for someone in the public sector to be earning so much," she said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Salga conference in Durban last week, Msunduzi mayor Mzimkhulu Thebolla insisted that the CEO's salary was justified, citing a range of activities that the

office was engaged in. "When was the last time that you heard of a strike by SA Municipal Workers Union across the country? It has been a long while and part of that has to do with a lot of work that the Salga CEO does on the part of municipalities to ensure such stability," said Thebolla.

He added that local government was a key sphere and it was important for Salga to attract the best and that meant providing a salary commensurate with the job requirements.

He added that aside from the bargaining council, the Salga CEO also represented municipalities at different platforms where they needed to lobby for local government.

"Obviously the matter also needs to be discussed at a general council level with all municipalities represented, but one would say at the moment the Salga CEO deserves what he earns," said Thebolla.

UMshwati mayor Mandla Zondi agreed that the Salga CEO's salary package was reasonable. "When you realise the number of municipalities, not just in KZN but the country at large and the many interests they have which have to be represented in many platforms then you appreciate the massive task for the CEO," said Zondi.

IFP KZN chairperson and Salga KZN chairperson Thami Ntuli said while he could not fully comment on the subject, it was important that the CEO be paid in line with peers at the same level.

He noted that there were many municipalities that look to Salga for assistance and this had been offered in the past.

Salga spokesperson Tebogo Mosala said the association offered market-related salaries and also considered the person's salary at their previous employer and what the candidate is willing to accept to take on the job, and most importantly, affordability for the organisation.

She defended the organisation over the criticism of the CEO's salary, especially with regard to reference being made to poorly performing municipalities. "The performance of municipalities is not a pre-determinant for the salary of the CEO of Salga, but rather what is expected of the person in that role in relation to Salga's mandate. Salga has consistently achieved against its annual performance plans over the years. The performance of municipalities on the other hand is influenced by many other factors that are outside the scope of the role of Salga as an association."

Mosala added that accounting officers in public and state-owned entities have consistently received competitive compensation. "It is imperative to recognise the value of accounting officers in the public sector and acknowledge the competitive nature of their remuneration, which aligns with their responsibilities and contributions to the nation's financial stability and growth."

## SHOWDOWN



SPRINGBOK flanker and captain Siya Kolisi and England's captain and fly half Owen Farrell ahead of their teams' Rugby World Cup semi-final match on Saturday at Stade de France. | AFP

See Sports Pages

## SA teams face England foe on two fronts

MIKE GREENAWAY  
mike.greenaway@ioli.co.za

IT WILL be a case of "my cup runneth over" for sports fans tomorrow, and it is not just any cup, because the Rugby and Cricket World Cups have coincided to have the Springboks and Proteas playing old rivals England on the same day.

Sports fans are looking forward to a feast that begins at 10.30am, with the Proteas aiming to hit back from a humiliating loss to the Netherlands by beating England in the 50-over World Cup in India. And not long after that game is predicted to end, the Boks play a semi-final (9pm kick-off) against England at the Stade de France in Paris.

Unlike the Proteas, the Boks are in fine form. They upset hosts France in an epic quarter-final last week, and are tipped to beat England to advance to the final, where they will play the winners of tonight's semi-final between Argentina and New Zealand.

The day after it was established that the Boks would play England – who beat Fiji in another quarter-final – fans began stoking the fire. In one popular meme on social media, this latest showdown was depicted as the latest chapter of the Anglo-Boer War. England may have won that war of 1899-1902, but the sporting versions have gone the way of the Boks – England were defeated in the 2007 and 2019 World Cup finals.

"The rivalry has been around long before my time," said a smiling Bok captain Siya Kolisi yesterday. "England is a big country, a big team. They play hard."

"Even after the 2019 final, we lost the next game to them, so it's always tough to play them. As for South African fans hating England, I don't worry about that," Kolisi laughed. "Whoever we play, we want to show we are a good team..."

It is not often that the Boks are outright favourites against the English, and Kolisi has played down the favourites tag. "We don't see it that way because

we know how good England can be, especially in World Cups. Their team has changed and we've seen how hard they are working. In the World Cup, we have seen teams who are not in the top 10 beating teams in the top 10, so it would be silly to think we are favourites."

In Cricket World Cups, it is pretty much even honours between South Africa and England. The teams have never met in a final and have beaten each other without too much ado in group matches, but there has been one dramatic exception. Older cricket fans will never forget the heartbreak of the Proteas losing the semi-final of the 1992 World Cup in Sydney.

In a dramatic match, the Proteas were on course to make the final in their first post-isolation World Cup, when rain intervened. The South Africans had needed 22 runs off 13 deliveries, but after a rain stoppage, fans watched in horror as the scoreboard changed to "22 runs required off one ball".

## Malema again calls out 'bully banks'

KUBEN CHETTY  
kuben.chetty@ioli.co.za

EFF leader Julius Malema has again raised the issue of the country's banks being bullies, taking to social media to voice his displeasure and saying "they think they are all powerful".

Malema on Wednesday took to X (formerly known as Twitter) to post: "But we should have two days of not banking against all banks in South Africa to show them the people's power because they think they are all powerful against the people's power."

This prompted responses from those who follow Malema on the social media site, ranging from those who raised the VBS banking issue, and those who supported suggestions of alternative banking mechanisms to others who questioned whether this would achieve anything.

Parliament's ethics committee recently found that there was no evidence that Malema had possibly breached the code of ethical conduct for failing to disclose interests in the now defunct VBS Mutual Bank.

However, the committee found that the party's chief whip, Floyd Shivambu, had breached the code of conduct by not disclosing three payments totalling R180 000 that he received in 2017 via VBS from a company owned by his brother.

One response said: "The banking cartel in SA is the most corrupt organisation in the world", while another said: "Our lives will stop. While many politicians have money under mattresses to keep them going".

The EFF did not respond to requests for comments on what prompted Malema's utterances, but he has in the past been critical of the country's banking institutions.

In August Malema, in response to Standard Bank's decision to shut down accounts belonging to Sekunjalo-related companies, including Independent Media, called for a mass mobilisation against the country's banks.

The bank has attempted to close the accounts of South Africa's largest newspaper group.

Last month, the Equality Court sitting in the Western Cape High Court interdicted Standard Bank from shutting down the accounts.

The bank cited reputational damage for wanting to end its relationship with Sekunjalo, which in turn has accused the financial institution of relying on unsubstantiated media reports to close its accounts.

The court's ruling was the second victory for Sekunjalo after the bank was interdicted last year from closing the accounts.

Political analyst Professor Siphos Seepe said: "Malema has already campaigned and is mobilising a constituency that exists and who are aggrieved with the banking system. Banks are quick to execute repossession orders against poor black people when they could give them a chance."

Live, study or invest abroad

OYSTER BOX HOTEL 07:30-16:00 31 OCT -1 NOV

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP & EMIGRATION EXPO

expo@sableinternational.com

+27 (0) 21 657 2120

www.sableinternational.com/expo

SABLE INTERNATIONAL



R14.00

Annual Subscriber R13.27  
0800 20 47 11

DURBAN 18/27°  
Wind: NNW  
CTN 15/23° JHB 12/26°



BREAKING NEWS  
IOL.CO.ZA

LETTERS | P2  
OPINION | P4  
CROSSWORDS | P8

BEHIND EVERY GREAT MAN IS A WOMAN ROLLING HER EYES. | JIM CARREY