



Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, Inaugural President of the UCLGA

EDITORIAL

This is the first of quarterly electronic newsletters from the Office of the President.

The aim of the newsletter is to keep members of the UCLGA informed about developments within the organisation. It will also serve as a forum for intellectual discussions on local government issues.

Regions and individuals are invited to submit articles and reports so that the newsletter can serve as a point of convergence among the members. That way the unity that the organisation was founded to achieve will be enhanced.

For comments, and to submit local government articles of interest, please write to:

The Editor
United Voices Bulletin
Office of the UCLGA President
c/o City of Tshwane
P. O. Box 440
Pretoria 0001, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Tel: +27 12 358 4905 / 4907
Fax: +27 12 358 4693
Email: Liliand@tshwane.gov.za

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friday 18 May 2005 was a historic day in the annals of African local government. That day saw the birth of the second most important political organisation, after the African Union, in Africa – the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA).

Over 2000 local government leaders, members of the international community, governments and other civic groups witnessed this historic event unfold in the City of Tshwane, Republic of South Africa.

The continent of Africa is finally united at the national political level – through the AU; the national economic level – through NEPAD; and at the local government level – through the UCLGA.

The founding of the UCLGA also enjoyed a fair amount of international support. Messages of support were received from the United Nations, the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the world body of local government, and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF).

Mindful of the importance of linkages with development aid structures, the Founding Congress of the organisation resolved that an alignment would be ensured between UCLGA programmes and those of world organizations, including donors, funders and development institutions, informed and influenced by the NEPAD developmental agenda and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

I am humbled by my election as the Inaugural President of the UCLGA, and I hope to help in harnessing the South African local government system with others around the continent to evolve a system that the continent can be proud of.

The intellectual and theoretical underpinnings of the kind of local government system envisaged by the UCLGA for Africa were raised in the discussions and deliberations of the Founding Congress. They are encapsulated in the resolutions and are consistent with the programme of the African Union as signified by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the MDGs.

In hosting the Founding Congress Tshwane, Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, Cape Town and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) followed other cities and associations which, since 1998, had

demonstrated their commitment to African local government unity by hosting various summits and activities towards the founding of the organisation.

The most critical political challenge to be addressed almost immediately by the UCLGA leadership is formal contact with the African Union and NEPAD so that all aspects of the evolution of the organization are, right from the beginning, in synch with the macro political, economic and developmental framework and architecture of the continent.

It is pursuant to the above that the leadership of the UCLGA undertook a mission to Abuja, Nigeria on 1 November 2005 to meet with the current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, and present to him a Memorandum which calls for the recognition of local government as a distinct but subsidiary sphere of government all over the continent and that the UCLGA be recognized as an organ of the African Union to advise the organisation on issues of local government and governance.

The advice, it is envisaged, would straddle African local government priorities such as decentralisation; international relations; human capital development; local economic development; basic services; gender; culture; funding and finance; sharing of knowledge and resources; and the environment.

These priorities are represented by the resolutions of the Founding Congress, which have now been translated into a multi-year organizational strategy and programme of action.

The full Congress report is available, and it is currently being circulated widely after its adoption by the Executive Committee of the organization in August 2005. It will also be soon available on the UCLGA website, which will be officially launched in January 2006.

I look forward to the great challenges ahead and, with the Vice-Presidents, the Executive Committee, the Secretary-General and all other structures of the organisation, will strive to ensure that the UCLGA becomes a force to be reckoned with in Africa and beyond.

I thank you for all your support and the confidence that Africa has once again placed upon me.

Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa
President, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

MR JEAN PIERRE ELONG MBASSI, THE FACE AT THE HELM OF THE UCLGA SECRETARIAT

Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, a Cameroonian national and very seasoned and well-known local government expert, was unanimously nominated to be at the helm of the General Secretariat of the UCLGA. Mr Elong Mbassi is not a new face to continental and international local government. An urban planner by training, he brings a wealth of experience to the UCLGA, having, for over 20 years,

been Secretary-General of the Municipal Development Partnership, a Cotonou, Benin-based, World Bank-founded technical and institutional support agency for local governments in Africa. He was also Secretary-General of the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC) in Geneva.

Mr Elong Mbassi has the experience, networks and drive which the UCLGA needs to ensure that its footprints are etched in the continent and beyond.



Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi



The New UCLGA Executive 2005

NAME	TITLE	COUNTRY
1. Father Smangaliso Mkhathswa	President - UCLGA	SOUTH AFRICA
2. Mr Omar Bahraoui	Vice-President, UCLGA Northern African region	MOROCCO
3. Mr Eneas Comiche	Vice-President, UCLGA Southern African region	MOZAMBIQUE
4. Mr Augustin Kampayana	Vice-President, UCLGA Eastern African region	RWANDA
5. Mr Hugues Ngouelondele	Vice-President, UCLGA Central African region	CONGO
6. Mr Baver Dzeremo	Vice-President, UCLGA West African region	NIGERIA
7. Ms Florence Benstrong	Mayor & Chairperson of the Association of the Districts of Victoria (ADV)	SEYCHELLES
8. Mr Joe Akech	President, Association of Local Authorities of Kenya (ALGAK)	KENYA
9. Mr Simon Compaore	President, Association of Mayors of Burkina Faso & Mayor, City of Ouagadougou	BURKINA FASO
10. Mr Ousmane Masseck Ndiaye	President, National Association of Mayors of Senegal (AMS)	SENEGAL
11. Mr Simon Pierre Beassingar	Mayor, City of N'djamena & President, Association of Local Authorities of Chad	CHAD
12. Mr Gilbert Tsimi Evouna	Government Delegate	CAMEROON
13. Captain Bashir Ahrir	Secretary of the Socialist Party	LIBYA
14. Mr Abbas Mohsen	Mayor, City of Tunis & President of the National Federation of Local Governments of Tunisia	TUNISIA
15. Mr Kentse Rammidi	Chairperson, South District Council & President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA)	BOTSWANA
16. Ms Rosina Hoabes	President, Association of Local Authorities of Namibia (ALAN)	NAMIBIA
17. Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi	Secretary-General, UCLGA	CAMEROON

A Word of Advice from the African Union (AU)

President Obasanjo also asked the UCLGA to be active within the AU context and ensure that it has a strong voice in the world body, the United Cities and Local Governments, and therefore in the UN.

Highlighting challenges that the UCLGA would face in finding solutions to suit the needs of the very diverse communities that make up the African continent, President Obasanjo said:

The diversity and territorial landscape of the continent call for peculiar skills and capacities. These include the capacity and skills to understand the aspirations of the broad variety of local problems and identify innovative programmes and projects, and transform them into packages useful to be disseminated for the effective development of Africa.

In conclusion, he asked the Congress to reflect on four critical questions:

- *How do we generate and make resources available to local governments?*
- *What are the possibilities and implications of local autonomy and authority and how do we effectively relate local governance to other levels of authority?*
- *How do we institutionalise open and public political processes at the local level to allow for accountability, transparency, due process, popular participation and good governance?*
- *How do we evolve effective local institutions of collective choice?*

General Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and current President of the African Union, giving his keynote address and endorsing the creation of the UCLGA at the Official Opening Ceremony of the UCLGA Founding Congress held in the City of Tshwane on Monday 16 May 2005



UCLGA SEEKS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AFRICAN UNION

On 1 November 2005 the leadership of the UCLGA met with the current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, in Abuja, Nigeria, and presented him with a Memorandum requesting:

- The African Union's endorsement of the development and adoption of an African Charter to devolve appropriate authority, responsibility and accountability to local governments on the continent;
- The African Union's endorsement of the principle of establishing local government legislatively or constitutionally as a distinct but subsidiary sphere of government in the member states of the African Union;
- The African Union's recognition of the UCLGA as the representative of local government in Africa;
- That the UCLGA be accorded the status, with attendant responsibilities, of the local government organ of the African Union; and
- That a working group be established between the Commission of the African Union and the UCLGA to take the process forward.

Part of the background to these requests is the fact that the UCLGA sees its role on the continent as that of a junior partner of the AU – the AU being the union of national governments and the UCLGA that of local governments in Africa, and both being public institutions emanating from democratic processes. Accordingly, the UCLGA sees itself in a complementary but subsidiary relationship with the AU, and the UCLGA's member municipalities see themselves as complementary but subsidiary to their national and provincial or regional spheres of government.

President Obasanjo expressed his profound support for local government and undertook to table the Memorandum at the next AU Heads of State Summit.



His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo, current AU Chairman, receiving the UCLGA Memorandum from Father Smangalis Mkhathshwa in Abuja

The UCLGA is eternally grateful for the honour extended towards it by the African Union and President Obasanjo, particularly as he effectively took a detour from his official itinerary just to grace the UCLGA with his presence at its Founding Congress in Tshwane in May 2005, and secondly

when, following a double tragedy he experienced in late October 2005, he refused to cancel his appointment with the UCLGA leadership in Abuja, and even left an important African Union meeting in Addis Ababa early in order to receive the UCLGA leadership in Abuja.



Some members of the UCLGA leadership, accompanied by the Association of Local Government Authorities of Nigeria (ALGON), in a group photograph with President Obasanjo (in purple) in Abuja



Honourable Former President
Joaquim Chissano

HONOURABLE FORMER PRESIDENT JOAQUIM CHISSANO HONOURS THE UCLGA BY ACCEPTING INVITATION TO BECOME ITS FIRST HONORARY MEMBER

In recognition of the role that he played (as the Chairman of the African Union at that time) in giving political guidance and direction to the leadership of the Interim Management Council of the UCLGA, former President of Mozambique the Honourable Mr Joaquim Chissano was unanimously accorded the first Honorary membership of the UCLGA.

In typical humility, his acceptance to the President of the UCLGA is partly expressed as follows:

I feel humbled by this decision because I feel that I had so little to give. I am glad that the UCLGA leaders have unanimously seen my actions or attitudes in another and wider dimension. It is, therefore, my pleasure to convey through your reverence, my

acceptance of the Honorary membership to UCLGA.

Mr Chissano has played a key role as a supporter of African unity at the local government level, and most specifically the creation of the UCLGA. As Chairman of the African Union he received the UCLGA leadership in February 2004 in Mozambique, a meeting during which he committed his full support and availability to the cause of African local government.

His presence at the Founding Congress of the UCLGA, where he delivered a paper entitled "Consolidating African Unity and Integration", reflected that commitment. He applauded the founding of the UCLGA as a milestone in local government unity and integration, and said broader African unity needed to stretch to local government if it was to be truly successful. Some of the challenges he listed as requiring joint national and local government action include peace, stability and diseases such as malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS.

FULL KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OLUSEGUN OBASANJO AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE UCLGA FOUNDING CONGRESS, CITY OF TSHWANE, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2005

PROTOCOL

It is with great pleasure that I give the keynote Address on this historic occasion of the Founding Congress of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA). This congress marks the crystallization of the municipal and local government movement in Africa. Until now, the municipal and local government movement in Africa had reflected the colonial partitioning of Africa in its Anglophone, Lusophone and Francophone linguistic cleavages.

This is not the time and place to bemoan the distortions, contradictions, disarticulations, conflicts, suspicions and general underdevelopment bequeathed to Africa by colonialist forces. Rather, it is a time to draw lessons from our bitter experiences and to transcend those structural, social and institutional limitations that have militated against unity, collective action, and development.

Today the local government movement has joined the African Union (AU) and Africa's own development programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative, to confirm the potential of Africa as a single unit of development. It is gratifying that this event is taking place five years into the new millennium, and one year after the founding of the global United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) on May 5, 2004 in Paris.

It is my hope that your congress will be a unifying force in Africa dedicated to the empowerment of communities, innovation in governance, social justice, harmony within our nations, and the strengthening of democratic institutions and value.

The significance of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) is underscored by the trend of economic globalisation, which has encouraged a rethinking about democracy and governance and the development of new methods and forms of collective action. The United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) is only part of the current global social movements and transnational networks that wish to alter the trend of globalisation by making it more sensitive, more pro-people and much more capable of transforming the world in the interest of peoples and communities.

I therefore call on the United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLGA) to develop transnational communicative structures that reach beyond policy change to advocate and encourage changes in the institutional and principled basis of national and international interaction. In doing these, it has to mobilise transnational resources and ensure that local governments become a constituency for multilateral policy. It has to be active within the African Union governance institutions while it ensures a strong African voice within the global United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and thereby the United Nations System. Even when we think globally, we must always act locally because "local" is where the people are based and where the needs of people are felt and must be addressed.

To take its place as an effective linkage, it must represent the aspirations of local governments across the continent. This is no easy task. The diversity and territorial landscape of the continent call for peculiar skills and capacities. These include the capacity and skills to understand the aspirations of the broad variety of local problems and identify innovative programmes and projects, and transform them into packages useful to be disseminated for the effective development of Africa. In rising to this challenge, however, it is advantaged *ab initio* by the development and spread of information and communication technology, a real source for intensifying interaction across territorial, social and political organizations. Indeed, information

and communication technology has made it possible for small units of local governments to participate in broad territorial programmes with our own NEPAD initiative. It is hoped that such participation will not only become real in Africa but will also be effectively coordinated by the United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLGA).

The theme of this founding congress is very apt. It implies that the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) is not just to be a voice for local government, but also to be a voice for sustainable development in Africa. Let me therefore say a word on the import of the idea of sustainable local government in Africa for it has great implications for the general expectation regarding its goals and mission. Sustainable development is simply viewed as integrated social, environmental, political, spiritual, cultural and economic development. It became a catchword in development circles with the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Interestingly local government was first defined as a key partner in sustainable development at that summit.

It was then recognised that the participation and cooperation of local authorities will be a determining factor in fulfilling the objective of educating and mobilising the public to promote sustainable development. Section 28 of agenda 21 of the Rio Earth Summit the programme of action for sustainable development, is dedicated to local governments. Indeed, local authorities and their communities are expected to produce Local Agenda 21 strategies. Hence, to be a united voice and representative of local government in Africa, the UCLGA must help ensure that local sustainable development agendas are developed in every local government in Africa. Beyond these, it must ensure that core values of local self governance permeate the practice of local government in Africa. These values include popular participation, human rights, service delivery, governmental responsiveness and accountability to citizens, and solidarity so important for the development of peaceful, sustainable, cohesive and inclusive societies.

There are daunting challenges facing Africa in the bid to realise these ideals. In Africa, urbanisation is rapid and it is yet to be put under effective control and management. This has been worsened by the preponderance of informal and haphazard settlements, poor transport networks and lack of essential social amenities in many cities across the continent. For example, Nigeria has the fastest rate of urbanisation in Africa; over 40% of its 150 million people already live in cities. There are problems of slums and urban unemployment. We have embarked on urban renewal and poverty alleviation programme coupled with infrastructural development that could benefit from a continentwide synergy. Municipal governments remain central to the prosecution of these programmes. We hope to see our Local Governments Chairpersons benefit from exchange of ideas and the sharing of experiences under the auspices of the United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLGA) as they wrestle with these problems, to create eco-efficient and wholesome cities and resilient and contented communities.

All over Africa, national governments continue to recognise local government as a fundamental level of government at which the momentum to sustain national development and growth can be created. In essence, local governments are expected to serve as the mechanism for harnessing local resources, develop local initiative, meet essential local demands and needs, and provide the playground through which teeming populace could participate in the affairs of the country. As governments seek to deepen democracy, increase their capacity to deliver services and care for citizens, effective and efficient local governance structures have to be established as meaningful participatory mechanism and

accountability instruments at the level closest to the people.

The promotion and integration of local people into the main stream of activities of development are very essential to success and sustainability. These involve the recognition of the various peculiarities and their accommodation into decision making processes. Local government is the agency for harnessing the potential contribution of indigenous people and their institution to development. The indigenous people and their skills and relevant values must be brought into the mainstream of growth and development.

It is very important to pay special attention to personal services like caring for the community's poor, the aged, the handicapped, and the orphans. In several countries where such services are paid for by the national government, it is local government that executes them, thereby underscoring the power of, relevance and potential of local government to promote integration as well as upgrade community life. This is one sure way to promote confidence in government and its leaders, build popular participation, and ensure peace and stability.

Finally, local governments can only remain critical to sustainable development when they are efficient, well-led, effective, focussed and dedicated to the values of transparency, accountability inclusion, fair competition, equity, social justice and good governance. A corrupt and badly run local government is just as useless to the people as a bad government at any level in society. A bad leader cannot run a good local government system. It is therefore critical that the mobilisation of the people, the strengthening of civil society, and the strengthening of

oversight and democratic institution are seen as a central to the local government system.

To conclude, I ask you to reflect on four critical questions that need to be answered by concrete policy suggestions in order for us to achieve efficient, effective and sustainable local government in Africa. These questions are drawn from the recent work some of the most renowned scholars of local governance in Africa.

- How do we generate and make resources available to local government?
- What are the possibilities and implications of local autonomy and authority; and how do we effectively relate local governance with other levels of authority?
- How do we institutionalise open and public processes at the local level to allow for accountability, transparency, due process, popular participation and good governance?
- How do we evolve local institutions of collective choice?

I congratulate you all and I hope this congress marks the beginning of strong local governance structures for sustainable development in Africa. I can assure you of the full support of the AU in the quest to strengthen, empower, refocus and reposition local government structures to maximum relevance and performance in Africa.

I thank you for listening and may God continue to bless Africa.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UCLGA Southern African Region holds its 1st Official Meeting in Maputo

The Southern African Region of the UCLGA, presided over by the Honourable Eneas Comiche, Mayor of the City of Maputo, Mozambique, met on 28 October 2005 at the Rovuma Pestana Hotel in Maputo. Local government representatives from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia attended the meeting. The UCLGA Secretary-General, Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, was also invited to attend.

Mr Comiche reported that at a meeting held on 2 September 2005 the Region had compiled a list of Regional representatives to the World Council of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Regional delegates to the UCLGA's delegation in the Working Groups of the UCLG were also identified and both lists were submitted to the Interim Secretariat of the UCLGA.

The Region was formally launched and it received and deliberated on the Draft UCLGA Corporate Strategy as well as the Report of the Founding Congress of the organisation. The Region also resolved to locate the Regional Office wherever the Vice-President representing the Region is located at any given time. Regional meetings would be held twice a year, preferably before each UCLGA Exco Meeting, and a 50 + 1 representation would be the Region's quorum.

It was also agreed that a team would be constituted in the near future to draw up a Regional Programme of Action. The Vice-President would convene the first meeting of the team.

Visits to Regional Chapters of the UCLGA

The other regions of the UCLGA, namely North,

West, Central and East, have all undertaken to formally launch their chapters before the end of January 2006. Chapter 2.3 of the UCLGA Constitution states that "the UCLGA shall maintain a regional office in each of the five regions of Africa (east, west, north, south and central) at such locations as shall be determined by the Executive Committee".

At the 2nd UCLGA Executive Committee meeting held in the City of Tshwane from 3 - 5 August 2005 it was resolved that the choice of the UCLGA regional offices would be left to the Regions concerned, under the leadership of the respective Vice-Presidents.

The launch of the Regional chapters of the UCLGA would be reinforced through visits by the Presidency of the organisation to meet with the elected leadership and to give political support through meetings with national and other leaders and stakeholders.

The UCLGA Executive Committee holds its 3rd Meeting in Gaborone, Botswana

Hosted by the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA), the Executive Committee (Exco) of the UCLGA met in Gaborone, Botswana, from 17 – 18 November 2005 to finalize its strategy, among other matters, review the issue of the UCLGA headquarters. Members from Botswana, Cameroon, Congo, Kenya, Libya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles and South Africa attended the meeting.

Mr Kentse Rammidi, President of BALA and Member of the Executive Committee of the UCLGA, welcomed Exco members, their aides and observers to Botswana. He expressed the hope that the meeting would empower members of BALA and help them in their quest to make their government appreciate the importance of making local government a constitutionally distinct but subsidiary sphere of government. He reported that some progress had been made in their interaction with their Minister of Local Government, who had demonstrated a desire to understand their position so that she could articulate it intelligibly in her own interaction with her Cabinet colleagues.

Indeed, in a meeting in which she warmly received the members of the Executive Committee of the UCLGA, the Minister of Local Government in Botswana, the Honourable Dr Margaret Nasha, pledged her continued support for local government not only in Botswana but continentally.

The UCLGA Strategy

The Exco meeting also received a presentation of the organisation's Strategy, and it welcomed and adopted it subject to the following:

- Diseases like HIV, AIDS as well as others constitute a threat and should be so depicted.
- The high turnover of Councillors and Mayors should also be included under threats faced by the organisation.
- Inter-municipal relations should be added to international relations.

The question of financial investment over and above monies attached to the NEPAD Programme of Action was raised as something to be expected given that NEPAD itself was not adequately resourced.

It was also opined that, where donors and funders are concerned, the organisation would have to be wary of those who might have ulterior agendas inconsistent with the UCLGA's own developmental mission and programme.

AULA/UVA Due Diligence Audit Report

A Due Diligence Audit of the African Union of Local Authorities (AULA) was presented. The Report was accepted and it was resolved that an implementation plan would be developed to ensure that the recommendations are carried out.

The said recommendations were that the professional staff of AULA would, subject to the outcome of direct negotiations with them, be absorbed into the UCLGA. Projects run by AULA at the time of its dissolution would also be inherited by the UCLGA.

It was noted that UVA had said it would be responsible for its own dissolution and therefore did not need to be audited.

UCLGA Headquarters

Resolution 10 of the Founding Congress of the UCLGA, entitled "ON THE LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UCLGA" is as follows:

It is resolved that:

As a fundamental principle, the location of the seat of the UCLGA must be in a country that pursues the African agenda by actively participating in the affairs of the continent. Accordingly, Clause 2.2 of the draft Constitution shall be deleted and replaced by a provision that the UCLGA Executive Committee shall determine the location of the seat of the UCLGA from time to time.

Further, as an interim measure, and pending determination of a permanent seat by the Executive Committee, the seat shall be located at the offices of the AU ; or if the Kingdom of Morocco assumes its seat in the AU within six months, then the seat shall be located in Rabat, Morocco.

When the UCLGA Exco met in Gaborone, it was reported that, at least until then, which was the afternoon of 18 November 2005, the Kingdom of Morocco had not met the condition of resuming its seat in the African Union.

It was then resolved that, if by midnight of that day, Morocco had not yet resumed its seat in the AU, a bidding process would be set in motion for the selection of a host country for the headquarters of the organisation.

This resolution was taken with an offer of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the headquarters having been tabled and noted. It was agreed, however, that, in the interests of transparency, the Nigerian offer would be considered together with any other offers that might be made by other interested countries.

Pursuant to a democratic process, it was decided that a set of requirements and conditions would be developed as guidelines for bidding countries. The requirements to be disseminated to all the members would also be articulated in a letter to be written to the Kingdom of Morocco apprising them of the resolution of Exco and advising them about their own qualification to bid, if they so feel.

UCLGA President Finalist for World Mayor Award

The Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane is among the finalists for the 2005 World Mayor Award. The World Mayor project, organised by City Mayors, aims to raise the profile of mayors worldwide as well as honour those who have served their communities well and contributed towards the wellbeing of cities, nationally and internationally. Last year's award was given to Edi Rama, Mayor of Tirana, for his success in transforming a chaotic post-communist city into a thriving western European metropolis.

Since the beginning of this year, more than 550 mayors from across the world have been nominated for the 2005 Award. Based on the number and quality of nominations, City Mayors' editorial board has drawn up a short list of 65 finalists from Europe, The Americas, Asia, Australia and Africa.

The final round of World Mayor 2005, which is receiving worldwide media coverage, is now in progress. The winner will be announced in early December 2005.

For more information on the World Mayor Award please visit:
www.citymayors.com or
www.worldmayor.com



Father Smangalis Mkhathwa

*"Building local coalitions
for the implementation
of the Millennium Development Goals
in African Local Governments"*



The Africities 4 Summit, that is the fourth African local government summit, will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18-24 September 2006. The theme of the Summit is "Building local coalitions for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in African Local Governments"

WHAT IS THE AFRICITIES SUMMIT?

The Africities summit is a Platform of political dialogue on decentralization in Africa. It brings together central and local governments, NGOs, the private sector, research and training institutions as well as partners in the donor and support agencies. It has been organised every three years since 1998 by the Municipal Development Partnership (MDP) in collaboration with the three main umbrella local government associations in Africa (AULA, UVA, and UCLAA), which have now unified to form the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA). The President of UCLGA, Father Smangalis Mkhathswa, is the President of the Africities 2006 Political Committee, which is charged with giving political direction to the Summit. The UCLGA will therefore be playing a major role in ensuring the success of the 2006 Summit. Africities is also supported by bilateral and multilateral donors.

RATIONALE FOR THE AFRICITIES SUMMIT

Success in the decentralization process in Africa depends on continuous dialogue between central and local governments in relation to shared powers, functions and resources. It also depends on the sharing of experiences at a Pan-African level while keeping a strategic watch on emerging lessons and themes at the international level.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE AFRICITIES

- Deepening of the political will for decentralization in Africa through central government support and commitment;
- Strengthening the African Municipal movement
- Promoting the advocacy role of local governments for their inclusion in national and international fora on issues related to local development
- Providing a forum for a continental exchange of information and good practices between elected local government officials (mayors), technical officials, and local government research and training institutions
- Promoting the notion of "think globally, act locally", implying that local solutions are crucial for sustainable development
- Promoting African integration through local-to-local cooperation and networks

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- International committees
- Political committee
- Executive committee
- Operational committee
- Local committees and stakeholder discussion groups

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The Africities Summit is organized over five days. The first two days are devoted to thematic and transversal sessions which offer an opportunity for an in-depth exchange on the theme of the Summit.

The third day of the Summit is devoted to special sessions for different institutions and networks working in the area of

decentralization and local governments in Africa to showcase their experiences.

The last two days are devoted to political meetings of the UCLGA, AMCOD and a tripartite dialogue between members of UCLGA and AMCOD and their development partners who support decentralization and local development in Africa.

THE CITEXPO (EXHIBITION)

Concurrently with the different sessions and meetings, an exhibition (Citexpo) is organised to offer an opportunity to central and local governments, civil society and the private business sector to exhibit their products and services, and share experiences relating to decentralization and local development in Africa.

Africities 4 in Nairobi will be mainly a stakeholders' meeting. The intention is to bring all the key players in local governments together in order for them to discuss the best way they can work jointly at the local level towards the implementation of the eight (8) MDGs in African Local Governments namely:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

To participate in both the Africities Summit and Citexpo, please register on the following website address: www.africities2006nairobi.org



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos

MAYOR OF QUITO, ECUADOR, JOINS UCLG PRESIDENCY



Mr Paco Moncayo Gallegos, Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, with Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa next to him

Elected at the UCLG World Council meeting in Beijing in June 2005, Mr Paco Moncayo Gallegos, Mayor of Quito, in Ecuador, joins the Mayors of Paris and

Tshwane (Pretoria) as a member of the UCLG Presidency. He replaces Ms Marta Suplicy, Mayor of Sao Paulo, who was elected to the Presidency during the UCLG Founding Congress in May 2004 in Paris, and whose term as Mayor of Sao Paulo came to an end in December 2004. The Mayor of Quito was selected as a candidate by the UCLG Latin American Regional Section, FLACMA (Federation of Latin American Cities, Municipalities and Associations).

Paco Moncayo Gallegos was elected Mayor of Metropolitan Quito, which has a population of 1.5 million, in 2000 and was re-elected for a second term in 2005. Previously a National Deputy, Mayor Moncayo was a member of the National Security Council and the Consultative Assembly for Foreign Affairs.

Mayor Moncayo is a graduate in International Sciences, has a Ph.D in Economics and Integration and is a postgraduate in Andean History. He is a member of the Academy of Ecuadorian History and received the UNESCO Simon Bolivar Award for his role in preserving the Cultural Patrimony of Quito. He has written

several publications on Latin America and Ecuador and has given lectures in Geopolitics and International Law at Ecuador Central University.

Information Society: Bilbao Declaration presented to UN Secretary General, 17 November 2005

Abbes Mohsen, Mayor of Tunis, UCLG Vice-President and a member of the UCLGA Executive Committee, and Juan José Ibarretxe Markuartu, President of the Basque Country, met with the United Nations Secretary General in Tunis to present the Declaration of the Second World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society that took place on 9-11 November in Bilbao, Spain.

The Mayor of Tunis and Mr Carmelo Sainz, President of EUDEL, the Association of Basque Municipalities, formally presented the Declaration to governments in the plenary session on the final day of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis. This was followed by a Local Government session, where the outcomes of the Bilbao Cities Summit will be discussed.

9 - 11 November: 2nd Local Authorities Summit on the Information Society

UCLG Secretary General, Ms Elisabeth Gateau and the President of FLACMA



The 2nd Local Authorities Summit on the Information Society, held in Bilbao, Spain, from 9 - 11 November, had, as an objective, reducing the digital divide and increasing the recognition of the role of local authorities in the development of the information society. Local governments from Spain and all over the world, as well as cities that are particularly active in initiatives toward the information society, participated in the

Summit.

The hosts, Iñaki Azkuna, Mayor of Bilbao and Karmelo Sainz de la Maza, President of the Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL), opened the Summit, with other high level speakers, including Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Secretary General of the "World Summit on the Information Society" (WSIS), and Ernesto Samper, former President of Colombia.

Speaking at the Summit, Ms Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments, said:

Building the Information Society is far more than ensuring greater access to the internet. The right balance needs to be found between the promotion of new tools and the promotion of innovative government, one that the citizens can identify with. Our priority is to promote strong efficient local government and transparent local governance that are answering the real needs of the citizens.

In a video message to the Summit, Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, said:

With their unsurpassed grassroots knowledge, local authorities have long been a potent force for development. Now they need to bring that experience to bear

on the new possibilities and opportunities

that communications technologies are opening up.

The 2nd Local Authorities Summit on the Information Society was held prior to the Second World Summit on the Information Society, which took place in Tunis, Tunisia, from 16 to 18 November. The World Summit aimed at consolidating the process of building a global information society and reducing the digital divide and transforming it into digital opportunities. It also examined the follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action at national, regional and international levels.

The Summit adopted a Declaration on digital solidarity. The United Nations has set the target of reducing poverty by half by 2015 and universal inclusive access to information technologies is key to achieving this objective. At present 80% of the world's internet users are in developed countries and for many citizens in the cities of the developing world, access to the worldwide web is yet to become a reality.