



The Honourable Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Private Bag X802
Pretoria
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

Dear Minister Hlabisa

The South African Academy of Engineering (SAAE), a voluntary association, a member of a global network, brings together eminent engineers from all engineering disciplines to serve the nation with independent expert advice.

The often poor state of engineering infrastructure and service delivery in many South African municipalities has concerned the Academy for a considerable period of time. Because it is engineers who, working as municipal employees, consultants, contractors, regulators and others, enable that service delivery, we have with great interest awaited publication of the review of the 1998 Local Government White Paper.

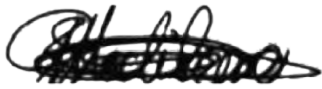
A reading of the most recent draft suggests that professional engineers who have held senior positions in municipalities and would thus be well placed to make strong recommendations, had very little input. If this (i.e. very little input) is so, it is much to be deplored.

The SAAE and its Fellows are available, and very willing, to support government in its efforts to improve local government and local government service delivery. The attached *Advisory Note 8: Local Government White Paper* captures our thoughts. We would be honoured to provide further information and to be invited to engage with Government.

This *Advisory Note 8: Local Government White Paper* is being copied to a number of Portfolio Committees and Directors General to whom it would be relevant – in particular those concerned with local government, water and sanitation, and the Treasury. It is also being copied to the Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of the

Engineering Council of South Africa, South African Institution of Civil Engineering, Institute of Municipal Engineers of Southern Africa, South African Institute of Electrical Engineers, and Water Institute of Southern Africa. Thereafter it will be made available to the media and to the public.

Yours faithfully



TC Madikane Pr Eng
President, South African Academy of Engineering
20 April 2026

Copies to:

President of the Republic of South Africa.

Portfolio Committees on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Water and Sanitation.

Directors-General: Departments Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, National Treasury, and Water and Sanitation.

Presidents and CEOs: ECSA, IMESA, SAICE, SAIEE, WISA.