

# Sweden-South Africa Partnership Network

Network for Partnership coordinators  
from Swedish Municipalities  
cooperation with South Africa within the  
“Municipal Partnership Programme”

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Stockholm 2015-05-22

## Meeting between Swedish coordinators and Mrs Ambassador Mandisa Dona Marsha

### Participants:

South African Ambassador, Mrs Mandisa Dona Marsha  
Mr. Kristian Olsson Selerud, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Mikael Hultberg, TTC Tibro kommun  
Ms. Jenny Nylund, Gävle kommun  
Ms. Ann-Christin Bohman, Karlskrona kommun  
Ms. Mette Kjörstad, Tyresö

1. **Introduction and information** to the ambassador about the ongoing  
Municipal Partnerships between Sweden and South Africa.

2. **How can we empower the partnership and transfer lessons learnt,  
knowledge and project results?**

Mrs. Ambassador: “A *Friends of the partnerships-network* could be  
created in South Africa, to support partnerships and learn from each  
other. Not all South African municipalities can have partnerships, but still  
they can gain skills and knowledge from the partnerships if we share  
best practice, for example through a *Friends of partnerships-network*.  
We could have thematic groups around the knowledge and experience  
gathered, such as: waste management, youth unemployment,  
administration etc.”

### Tyresö kommun

Kommunledningskontoret • Marknadsgränd 2 • 135 81 TYRESÖ  
Tel 08-5782 91 00 • Fax 08-798 95 94  
kommun@tyreso.se • www.tyreso.se

tyresö kommun



**3. How can we improve the implementation of the Municipal Partnerships between Sweden and South Africa?**

The steering committees from different municipalities/regions could coordinate their visits to the other country, and have common activities. This could be done both in Sweden and South Africa. For this to be possible, we need to plan the dates of the common activities well ahead.

**4. Financing projects and activities**

SIDA no longer has a bilateral contract with SA, so there is a need to look at other ways to finance cooperation. There is a wish from the partnership municipalities that the SA municipalities could look into what funding could be got from SA organisations or authorities.

**5. Strengthening cooperation between different levels of government.**

The Municipal Partnerships has the capacity to improve and enhance the cooperation and communication between different levels of government in both countries. This could be part of the strategic aims of the partnerships.

Mrs Ambassador: "It is important that the possibilities of cooperation projects between the Swedish and South African Municipalities are not in any way limited by the fact that different stakeholders have different responsibilities in the two countries. The province and national level could provide technical support, if they have the knowledge of the ongoing projects and activities. If we can strengthen the link between local government and province level, the partnerships would have a lot to gain."

One of the challenges for the Municipal partnerships, is the fact that Swedish municipalities and South African municipalities are not responsible for the same areas or fields. For example, to have cooperation in the field of Education, which is a responsibility of the Swedish municipalities, the South African partner need to involve the Provincial level. This could be seen as a great possibility, but it demands thorough planning and strong relations.

## **6. Dissemination of results**

The results of the Municipal Partnership projects could be highlighted at the Bi-national Conference in Stockholm in October 2015, to show the width of the relations between Sweden and SA. It is important to show best lessons learned by partnerships on all different levels – municipal, provincial and national.

SALAR and SALGA are important stakeholders, with the capacity to spread the knowledge and results of the partnerships to their members.

## **7. Future areas of cooperation**

All Municipal Partnerships have their own Steering Committee with the knowledge of local needs. However, some need were identified as common in South African Municipalities. The areas of cooperation that Mrs Ambassador would like to raise as possibly the most interesting are:

- Citizen Dialogue
- Financial management
- Sustainable Energy Solutions
- Job creation and Entrepreneurial skills
- Waste Management

## **8. Cooperation between the Municipal Partnerships and the South African Embassy in Stockholm**

The SA embassy in Sweden wishes to be informed when delegations from SA come to Sweden, to be able to support the delegations coming. The embassy and the partnerships could both gain from a close relationship, which also enables transfer of knowledge on what kind of projects are ongoing and what the partnerships are achieving.

## **9. Thank you for an outstanding cooperation, Mrs Ambassador!**

The coordinators thank Mrs Ambassador for the meeting, but also for her engagement in the Municipal Partnership, her support and her contribution during her years of Office. We wish her all the best on her retirement and hope to see her again soon.