



## President Mbeki opens conference

**HE President Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, was guest of honour at the opening of the second Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Tshwane, South Africa, on Tuesday 4 March 2003**

President Mbeki gave his backing to the aims of the conference and the theme which he said was important for addressing poverty, development and creating thriving cities

"We must, at the end of this gathering, be able to assist one another with practical ideas and plans that will take our cities on the path of development and prosperity," he said.

"I think that this conference should assist us in forming the partnerships that we need so that we can move forward faster and bring prosperity to all the citizens of the world."

Conference hosts Minister F S Mufamadi, Minister for Provincial and Local Government, South Africa, and Executive Mayor Father Mkhathshwa, President of the South African Local Government Association were amongst those who welcomed the President and spoke at the opening session.

CLGF chair Len Duvall OBE welcomed delegates, saying: "This conference is a unique forum that brings together ministers, officials, mayors, and local government leaders. At this second Commonwealth Local Government Conference, whose theme is local government service partnerships, I am also very pleased to welcome many representatives from the private sector and civil society organisations."

Other keynote speakers at the opening



Conference hosts Minister Mufamadi (centre) and Father Mkhathshwa (right) welcome President Thabo Mbeki to the conference.

session were Commonwealth Secretary General Rt Hon Don McKinnon, UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr Anna Tibaijuka, and Deloitte & Touche South Africa CEO Vassi Naidoo.

More than 400 delegates attended the conference, including around 20 ministers and representatives of 37 countries from across the Commonwealth. The three-day conference is a unique event for central and local government, the private sector, NGOs and others to meet to discuss the political and technical aspects of local government issues. This year's theme was local government service partnerships.

The conference statements pulled together the discussions, highlighting the policies and principles that are an essential element of partnerships.

The conference was organised by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) in collaboration with the South African Local Government Association, Tshwane City Council and the South African Government Department of Provincial and Local Government and Department of Foreign Affairs.

*Inside: more details of the conference statement and reports of keynote speeches.*

## New Board

Len Duvall OBE was re-elected as chairperson of CLGF at the General Meeting on 7 March.

Several new faces are among those elected to the new CLGF Board. They include:

Esther Sudu from the Association of Local Authorities of Nigeria; John Emilly Otekat, President of the Uganda Local Authorities Association; Hon Kouambo Adren, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation in Cameroon; and, Hon Ponto's Suzan Matumelo Sekatle, Minister of Local Government from Lesotho. Hon Mataiasi V Ragigia, Minister of Local Government, Fiji and Dr Bishnu Ragoonath, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago have been co-opted onto the Board.

The Hon Ponto's Suzan Matumelo Sekatle and Deputy Mayor Larel Thomas, Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica were elected as vice chairs of CLGF.

■ See back page for full Board list

## Commonwealth Local Government Conference

CLGF has received an enthusiastic response to its request for bids to host the next Commonwealth Local Government Conference in February/March 2005. Board members discussed the initial bids at their meeting in South Africa on 3 March and have asked for further information to enable them to come to a decision. A longlist of eight bids are being contacted for more details. These are:

- Coffs Harbour City Council, Australia
- Accra Metropolitan Assembly/Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana
- Kerala Institute of Local Administration, India
- East New Britain Provincial Government, Papua New Guinea
- Aberdeen City Council, Scotland, UK
- Birmingham City Council, England, UK
- Manchester City Council, England, UK
- Northern Ireland Local Government Association/Belfast City Council, Northern Ireland, UK.

The CLGF Finance Sub-committee will make a final decision in May for announcement in early June.

## Commonwealth news in brief

### Commonwealth Day celebrated

Commonwealth Day was celebrated on 10 March 2003 with observances, speeches, exhibitions and cultural events across the Commonwealth. This year's theme was 'Partners in Development' and the day united the people of the Commonwealth in celebration of their common values, aspirations and networks of co-operation. For more information on Commonwealth Day, please visit [www.commonwealthday.com](http://www.commonwealthday.com).

### Zimbabwe suspension continues

Zimbabwe's suspension from the councils of the Commonwealth remains in place following a meeting of the Commonwealth Chairpersons' Committee on Zimbabwe. The committee comprises Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and South African President Thabo Mbeki.

After the meeting Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon issued a statement that said:

"The members of the Troika have now concluded that the most appropriate approach in the circumstances is for Zimbabwe's suspension from the councils of the Commonwealth to remain in place until Commonwealth Heads of Government address the issue and decide upon a way forward at the CHOGM in December 2003."

Mr McKinnon emphasised the importance of Zimbabwe and its people to the Commonwealth, and the desire of the Commonwealth to work with the Government of Zimbabwe to resolve issues of concern.

### Observer group commended by Kenyan Minister

Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon met with Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Foreign Minister of Kenya, at Marlborough House in February to discuss potential capacity-building partnerships between the Commonwealth and Kenya.

Mr Musyoka thanked the Secretary-General for the Commonwealth Observers at the recent Kenyan General Election on 27 December 2002 and expressed his satisfaction with their work. The Observer Group, which was led by Professor Adebayo Adedeji, former United Nations Under Secretary-General, consisted of nine eminent persons, supported by six Commonwealth Secretariat staff.

■ Kenya's new Minister for Local Government, the Hon Emmanuel Karissa Maitha, was part of the Kenyan delegation attending the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in South Africa.

## Secretary-General highlights central role of local democracy



"Local government and local administration must be truly democratic", said Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon speaking at the opening session of the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2003.

Mr McKinnon emphasised the key role of local democracy in all Commonwealth countries; "Local democracy must ensure that delivery reflects the priorities of the community and that it reduces poverty and promotes economic development",

he said. "Local democracy must set realistic but high standards - and ensure that they are met", said Mr McKinnon, adding that local democracy, "must be implemented in such a way that it empowers people - not least women."

The Secretary-General also referred to the good relationship between the CLGF and the Commonwealth Secretariat and to their collaborative work in observing elections and providing technical experts to strengthen local democracy in several member countries.



CLGF would like to thank the European Union (CWCI Fund) and the UK Department for International Development and Foreign and Commonwealth Office for their generous support in making it possible for more than 70 delegates from developing countries and small states to attend the conference.

EU Ambassador Michael Lake, Head of the Delegation in South Africa, was one of the keynote plenary speakers at the conference.

## Cooperation with UN-HABITAT

"Cooperation between cities, local government practitioners, associations of local government and the private sector is emerging as a key tool in most international development agendas," said Dr Anna Tibaijuka, one of the keynote speakers at the opening session of the conference.

Dr Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat said:

"Often, slum dwellers lack legal ownership or any other legal security of tenure. Most of these and the myriad other problems associated with these can only be dealt with effectively at the local level.

"A key lesson is the importance of developing long-term frameworks at the city, national and international levels that identify a mix of stakeholders, public and private, in local, national and global

levels."

Dr Tibaijuka also pointed to the growing co-operation between UN-Habitat and CLGF:

"Collaboration with CLGF includes our effective cooperation in the national launches of the urban governance campaign in India, the Pacific and the Caribbean and envisaged cooperation in East Africa sub-region."

## Director's introduction

Attendance at the second Commonwealth Local Government Conference hosted by the City of Tshwane was almost double that at the first Conference, held in London in 2000. That in itself was significant. The Conference brought together over 400 senior local government leaders, including around 20 ministers, in an informal atmosphere and included a dialogue with key private sector and civil society representatives on the delivery of services, especially to the poor.

The Conference results will be considered by the CLGF's own extensive membership of local government practitioners with the aim of incorporating relevant policy recommendations in their own work. As such, the Conference was distinct from more formal international gatherings, which frequently lack clear outcomes or results. It further had a specific pro-poor and developmental focus, encouraged by the large number of delegates from 33 developing

countries across the world. The venue, South Africa, moreover focussed attention on the many problems facing local government as it struggles to deal with such challenges as rapid urbanisation and rising expectations

CLGF will now focus on the follow-up to the Conference. Its main statement has already been published on our website and we are busy putting together the Conference report. Further data will be incorporated in the next CLGF Handbook in 2004. Significantly, the Conference outcomes will, as with the first Conference, be formally submitted to Commonwealth Heads of Government for endorsement when they meet in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2003.

The CLGF intends, to develop further detailed policy guidelines on local government service partnerships. In this it will build on the valuable papers and materials brought together in Tshwane. It will also work closely with other partners, notably the

private sector and civil society, including through the Commonwealth Business Council and the Commonwealth Foundation, and with fraternal agencies such as UN Habitat and UNDP.

Clearly much needs to be done and Tshwane provided important signposts on the way forward for CLGF. The Conference would however not have been possible without the commitment of our hosts, especially Board members Smangaliso Mkhathswa and Sydney Mufamadi, their staff, the support of our many sponsors and donors and indeed the high level of participation by our members. To everyone who helped, I wish to express my sincere thanks. As one Board member was kind enough to remark, CLGF continues to grow significantly in membership and influence: I know that Tshwane will further contribute to this important momentum.

Carl Wright  
Director, CLGF

**Commonwealth local government leaders, ministers, officials and other participants** from Australia, Brunei, Cameroon, Canada, Dominica, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, St Lucia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe and representatives from the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Business Council, the European Union, UN Habitat and UNDP's PPPUE met at the Sammy Marks Convention Centre, City of Tshwane, Pretoria 4-6 March 2003 for the second Commonwealth Local Government Conference, organised by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) with the theme Local Government Service Partnerships (LGSPs).



## Practical advice on partnerships

**CLGF has been asked to develop a clear definition of partnership as part of a policy framework following discussion at the second Commonwealth Local Government Conference whose theme was Local Government Service Partnerships.**

The aim will be to produce a practical product that can be used by local authorities, national governments, the private sector, civil society and others who are involved in partnership working with examples of good practice of partnership working.

From the presentations and discussion in the plenary and breakaway sessions at the conference, it was clear that there is already a diverse range of local government service partnerships operating across the Commonwealth, of both an institutional and contractual nature.

A key emphasis to come out of the discussions was that a pro-poor focus

is essential in good practice. Local government often faces extensive challenges in dealing with poverty and providing better and basic services around water, sanitation, housing and ensuring that services are affordable. Partnerships with the private sector can help local authorities tackle these challenges; at the same time pro-poor partnerships require close cooperation with civil society and community consultation.

Delegates pointed to a number of key issues that any guidelines will need to address, including:

- partnerships must be appropriate to the local context and address the needs of local people, especially the poor
- the objectives, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders should be clearly spelled out at the beginning, including the economic benefits and division of risk

- central government should provide an enabling environment
- partnerships should support the local authority objectives
- wide consultation with the community and other stakeholders
- financial accountability and viability of LGSPs
- trust is a crucial factor in the developing and maintaining longer term relationships.

Delegates heard case studies from a variety of countries across the Commonwealth in breakaway sessions, and visited four nearby South African projects.

The conference report and statement will be submitted to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Abuja in November 2003.

*The full text of the statement can be seen on the CLGF website at [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk) and will be published in the conference report.*

## Partnerships to tackle poverty

**Partnerships can help local government tackle under-development, service backlogs and poverty said HE President Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, who was guest of honour at the second Commonwealth Local Government Conference.**

President Mbeki said:

"There are sound reasons why we need to promote and engage in local government service delivery partnerships. As we know, local governments do not command sufficient internal resources adequately to address

the challenges of under-development, service backlogs and poverty.

"Undoubtedly, for service partnerships to work, there should be a clear and predictable national regulatory regime. There should also be a transparent and public process of engaging stateholders, including communities, when considering various service delivery options."

"As we know, local governments do not command sufficient internal resources adequately to address the challenges of under-development, service backlogs and poverty."

"There are also instances where

expertise in infrastructure and service delivery is located outside of government. In addition, there is always the need to broaden the ownership of the development programmes to include key stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society formation.

"As we develop our cities, as we enter into partnerships with various sectors in our societies, we should be able to develop our economies, rekindle the intellectual engagements and artistic creativities that will make our metropolis thrive and prosper," he concluded.

*The full text of President Mbeki's speech will be published in the report of the conference.*



"Thus far we have made considerable progress regarding municipal service partnerships. We now have a predictable national regulatory framework for municipal service delivery. Communities, the labour unions, the private sector and municipalities are able to engage each other within the context of this framework.

"We are proud of our achievements in such a short space of time, given the apartheid legacy of massive service and infrastructure backlogs. We are aware, however, that we still have an immense challenge lying ahead. We hope that the outcome of this conference will be an invaluable resource from which we can continue to draw inspiration going forward."

Minister F S Mufamadi

"Collaboration between local government and other sectors makes more resources available, be they technical, financial or intellectual. Partnerships create a win-win situation, particularly at local government level.



"SALGA places an important emphasis on continuously learning from the experiences of past and current municipal service partnerships, locally and abroad. The CLGF provides a valuable network to assist us in that process."

Executive Mayor Father S Mkhathshwa, Chair, South African Local Government Association



"Local governments can ensure continued growth and job creation in their areas by stimulating local economic development. This can only be done with the support and participation of the private sector. The private sector needs high quality and uninterrupted services, supportive by-laws, cost effective municipal rates and service charges, and recognition as partners and key stakeholders in their local governments. The benefits of such partnerships are vast and will assist local governments achieve their objectives more efficiently and cost effectively."

Vassi Naidoo, CEO, Deloitte & Touche, South Africa

"Our conference theme is highly topical – and controversial.



"There are many forms of partnership. These may be contractual or not, commercially-based or not: business working in partnership with local leaders in community development is just as important as a commercially-based partnership involving service delivery. Clearly there is much diversity of experience in the Commonwealth and what may be suitable in one country may not suit elsewhere."

CLGF Chair Len Duvall OBE

## CLGF boosts work on local democracy

CLGF's pioneering work in supporting democratic developments in local government was given a boost after receiving the overwhelming backing of members at the CLGF General Meeting on 7 March following the second Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Tshwane, South Africa.

Members supported CLGF's work with the Commonwealth Secretariat and other Commonwealth bodies in giving support to countries undergoing a transition to local democracy and those under review by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG). They agreed that CLGF should undertake a needs assessment mission to Sierra Leone and for CLGF to set up a capacity building programme for local councillors in cooperation with members in Swaziland.

CLGF members present at the meeting discussed countries under the Commonwealth/CMAG mandate, including Fiji, Pakistan, the Solomon Islands and Zimbabwe. They supported CLGF continuing to provide advice and support to members faced with infringements of established local government rights and undertaking fact-finding missions to countries under the mandate.

Members signalled their delight at the increasing recognition CLGF has been gaining within Commonwealth and local government circles, noting the mandate given by Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) at their 2003 meeting and the recognition which the CHOGM gave to the co-operation between the CLGF and the Commonwealth Secretariat in promoting democratic values and good governance as well as the accredited status given to CLGF at the 2002 CHOGM.

Members also

- endorsed the CLGF submission to the Commonwealth Expert Group on Democracy and Development
- highlighted the work of the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme in strengthening effective, elected local government;
- backed the Commonwealth Local Government Handbook
- pledged that local government would implement the Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes of the World Summit
- stressed the continuation of dialogue with ACP and EU institutions given CLGF's many members in ACP countries.

The CLGF General Meeting is held every two years. Members agree the CLGF work programme and elect Board members to serve for the next two years.

## 2003 Handbook launch

The Commonwealth Local Government Handbook 2003 was launched on 5 March the Commonwealth Local Government Conference.

The Handbook, published by KPL for the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, is bigger and better than ever, building on the 2002 Handbook with a further six profiles and updates of the original nine country profiles. It contains:

- Country profiles detailing the local government system in 15 Commonwealth countries
- A report on local government partnership working.

The first Handbook, published in March 2002 proved extremely popular and is already becoming established as an essential reference book.

The country profiles provide comparative knowledge and are an essential tool for local councils and others interested in international comparisons, or involved in international relations. The research was undertaken through visits to each country and the collection of data from ministries, local government associations and research organisation.

The UK Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and other contributors helped

fund the research which was compiled by the University of Birmingham International Development Department and CLGF's research officer Dr Randal Smith.

Commonwealth Local Government Handbook 2003 is published by KPL for CLGF. All CLGF members have been sent at least one copy. Details of subscriptions to the series of handbooks are available from CLGF Publications, 59½ Southwark Street London SE1 OAL, tel: +44 (0)20 7934 9690; e-mail: info@clgf.org.uk; or check out our website www.clgf.org.uk.

## The CLGF Board

### Chairperson:

**Len Duval OBE AM**, Local Government Association, England and Wales\*

### Vice Chairpersons:

**Hon Ponto's Suzan Matumelo Sekatle**, Minister of Local Government, Lesotho\*

**Deputy Mayor Larel Thomas**, Association of Local Government Authorities, Jamaica\*

### Members:

#### Africa:

**Hon Esther Audu**, Association of Local Authorities of Nigeria, Nigeria

**John Emily Otekat**, President, Uganda Local Authorities Association, Uganda

**Hon Kouambo Adrien**, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, Cameroon

**Hon Ponto's Suzan Matumelo Sekatle**, Minister of Local Government, Lesotho\*

#### Americas:

**Mayor Irving John**, Castries City Council, St Lucia

**Deputy Mayor Larel Thomas**, Association of Local Government Authorities, Jamaica\*

**Hon Matthew Walter**, Minister of Community Development and Women's Affairs, Dominica

#### Asia Pacific:

**Cllr Peter Woods**, Past President, Lgov NSW, Australia\*

**Hon Chris Carter**, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand

**Hon Ananth Kumar**, Minister for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, India

#### Europe:

**Len Duval OBE AM**, Local Government Association, England and Wales, UK\*

**Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP**, Minister for Local Government and Regions, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, UK

#### Members at large:

**Cllr Jocelyne Guertin**, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada

**Executive Mayor Father Smangaliso Mkhathswa**, President, South African Local Government Association, South Africa

**Cllr Dr Helen Nkandi-Shiimi**, President, Association of Local Authorities of Namibia

### Associate members:

**Professor Michael Clarke**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Birmingham, UK

**Dr Jatin V Modi**, President, All India Institute of Local Self-Government, India

### Co-opted members:

**Hon Mataiasi V Ragigia**, Minister of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlements and Environment, Fiji

**Dr Bishnu Ragoonath**, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

### Alternates:

#### Africa:

**Hon Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu**, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana

**Hon F S Mufamadi**, Minister of Provincial and Local Government, South Africa

#### Americas:

**Cllr Charles Gregoire**, Dominica Association of Local Authorities

#### Asia Pacific:

**Mayor Basil Morrison**, President, Local Government New Zealand

**Mayor Ephraim Jubilee**, Deputy Governor, East New Britain Provincial Government, Papua New Guinea

**Hon Wilson Tuckey MP**, Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government, Australia

**Dato' Lokman Hakim bin Mohd.Jasan**, Secretary General, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia

#### Europe:

**Dr Ian Micallef LLD**, President, Local Councils Association of Malta, Malta

**Hon Andreas Christou**, Minister for the Interior, Cyprus

#### Associates:

**William Saunders**, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), UK

**Professor P S Reddy**, University of Durban-Westville, South Africa

**Michael Ashley**, Director, Local Government International Bureau, UK *Honorary Treasurer\**

**Carl Wright**, *Director\**

*\*Member of CLGF Sub-Committee on Finances and Membership*