

# President's Co-ordinating Council meets

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At the last meeting of the President's Co-ordinating Council in April, local government was again high on the agenda, with the focus being on Project Consolidate.

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The President's Co-ordinating Council (PCC) is a consultative forum for the President to raise matters of national interest with Premiers and organised local government on the implementation of national policy and legislation in provinces and municipalities. It also co-ordinates and aligns priorities, objectives and strategies across national, provincial and local government and other reports dealing with the performance of provinces and municipalities, among others.

## Report on Project Consolidate

The PCC received a progress report on the state of readiness of Project Consolidate, the hands-on programme of support and engagement for local government. The principal purposes of this initiative are to deepen the thrust and impact of existing policies and development programmes directed at local government, to accelerate the removal of service delivery backlogs and to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of government's programmes on social and economic transformation.

The primary focus of the programme will be on areas requiring immediate and direct action. Last year 136 municipalities were identified in all nine provinces that will require this targeted

additional support. These municipalities will benefit from teams of development professionals and specialists that will be deployed to assist them in addressing practical issues of service delivery and local governance.

The PCC was informed about the initial deployment of 29 high caliber Service Delivery Facilitators to 25 municipalities that are among the 136 identified as priority municipalities in terms of Project Consolidate.

The PCC noted the progress in the rollout of Project Consolidate, emphasising the central role of Premiers, MECs for local government, SALGA and Mayors in ensuring the success of the Project. The PCC also gave its support to the initial and ongoing deployment of Service Delivery Facilitators to municipalities.

## Municipal Imbizo Programme

The President briefed the PCC about broadening of the concept of Imbizo, which will now include

Municipal Imbizo Programmes with a strategic focus on Project Consolidate. This is meant to make provinces and national government focus more on local government and familiarise them with the challenges faced by this sphere. This will allow national and provincial leadership to provide a more targeted and focused attention in addressing the challenges faced by local government.

This programme is expected to start in May and will see the President, the Deputy President, the Minister for Provincial and Local Government, Premiers and MECs visiting municipalities that form part of Project Consolidate to have Imbizo with mayors, councillors, municipal management and the community.

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