

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CITIES CONVERGE IN PORT ELIZABETH TO DELIBERATE ON THE ROLE OF WATER ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the South African Cities Network (SACN) in partnership with Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)'s Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS), the USAID WASH-FIN program, and the World Bank Water Research Group 2030 (WRG 2030), are hosting local and international cities at the 3rd Water Resilient Cities learning event under the theme ***“Water as a Strategic Enabler for Economic Development in Cities”***.

Cities are engines of economic growth and water is a strategic resource critical for social and economic development in urban centres. However, there is a growing concern about the potential impact of water-related risks such as rapid urbanisation, climate change impacts and changing consumption patterns which pose a challenge to the growth of local economies as a result of these competing demands. Currently, it observed that domestic and industrial water use exceed supply and could stifle envisaged socio-economic growth at a municipal level. Greater attention must, therefore, be given to managing water as an economic good to achieve inclusive and equitable economic growth in cities. In this regard this 3rd learning event is designed to discuss and share knowledge on some the following issues:

- Building economic water resilience in cities
- The complexity and multidimensional nature of the water-energy nexus
- Lessons from Public-Private Partnerships on water resource management
- Peer-to-peer experiences on water security planning from Lusaka (Zambia), Kampala (Uganda) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania);

- Application of circular economy approaches in the water value chain, particularly energy capture to improve utility and city revenues;
- Exploring the application and blending of diverse capital sources to improve investment in water resources and water services management to enable local economic development;

Participants of the event will include water utility managers, finance officers, city practitioners, local government support institutions and water regulators drawn from South Africa, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania and the Philippines.

For this event, the partners are collaborating with C40 Cities Finance Facility, which will share its approaches to infrastructure investments in water resources and services.

Details of the event are as follows:

Date: 04-05 November 2019
Time: 10:30 – 17:00
Venue: Garden Court Kings Beach Hotel
Port Elizabeth

For further media enquirers:

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