

Media Release

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SALGA and GAPP to host 25 Years of Local Government virtual conference

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the think tank on Government and Public Policy (GAPP) will host a virtual conference to mark 25 Years of Local Government. The two-day conference, taking place on 25-26 November 2020, will review the basic assumptions that informed the post-Apartheid model of local government.

SALGA CEO Xolile George says: “The 25 Years of Local Government virtual conference will reflect on the last 25 years of local government in the democratic era. The conference aims to provide a platform for engagement on the fundamental assumptions that informed the constitution of the local government sphere and further unearth if ever the assumptions are still appropriate in the prevailing environment and address what needs to be changed?”

Among the key speakers and participants for the virtual conference are leaders in local government, politicians, decision-makers, and researchers, policymakers in government and local government stalwarts who played key roles in the formation of the local government system and in the running of municipalities.

Keynotes Speakers for the conference include former Deputy Minister for Provincial and Constitutional Affairs (1994–1996 Vali Moosa. Participants in some of the scheduled discussions include Municipal Demarcation Board Thabo Manyoni, on “Why ‘wall-to-wall’ municipalities”, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs Parks Tau “Going Forward: What Needs to Be Done?”.

SALGA CEO Xolile George will set the scene for discussion such as; the history of the current system and the allocation of powers and functions and making local government financially viable, among the topics.

“The White Paper on Local Government sets out local government as the sphere of government that interacts closest with communities, that is responsible for the services and infrastructure so essential to the people's well-being, and was tasked with ensuring growth and development of communities in a manner that enhances community participation and accountability. Over this 25 year journey, early stages of the transition have demonstrated signs that local government transformation will not go without any major constraints”, Xolile George says.

SALGA invites all its stakeholders, South African's at large, spheres of government, civil society, NGO's, private sector to join SALGA in celebrating 25 Years of Local Government.

Follow hashtag: #25YearsOfLocalGovernment #20YearsOfDemocraticLocalGovernment

Registration for the Virtual Conference is open for all.

<https://salga-org-za.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpceivrj0tEtHs-KgwRpS49XQZJ2GdqQ9d>

#End

Issued by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and Government and Public Policy (GAPP)

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