

SALGA 2022 National Conference and the future prosperity of South African municipalities.

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) national conference, South Africa's largest and most inclusive gathering of local government leaders comprising, among others, mayors, municipal managers, senior officials, and councillors from across the country's 257 municipalities, will be taking place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Cape Town from February 22-24.

The gathering will also host government Ministers, the media, academia, and other key players from non-government spheres.

The conference will not only focus on the future of SALGA but also that of its member municipalities by electing a new national executive committee (NEC), which includes a new president and three deputies, establishing and reviewing the organisation's oversight bodies and adopting a new 5-year strategic plan to give the organisation a solid vision, mission, and key objectives and goals to achieve over the new 5-year term of Democratic Local Government.

This follows the hosting of SALGA provincial conferences in each of the country's nine provinces, which commenced from 11 January 2022 and are well poised to conclude later this month.

These conferences also elected new members of provincial executive committees and approved SALGA provincial programmes of

action, business plans and budgets in respect of the ensuing five years.

The SALGA 2022 national conference is about local democracy and the future prosperity of South African municipalities. This is what will ultimately lead to the creation of diverse, equitable and more inclusive communities that will pave the path to national success.

State of the Nation Address (SONA)

President Cyril Ramaphosa will be giving the extent of progress being made in South Africa across key social indicators and outlining government's direction and goals for the year, and what it will do to achieve them in his annual State of the Nation Address (SONA).

President Ramaphosa's address, which allows Parliament to begin a new session and start its business, will set a positive tone of action for the whole of government and all public sector entities, including SALGA.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Over the last week, the nation was served with a painful reminder of how systemic violence perpetrated by men against women and children is in society.

SALGA stands shoulder to shoulder with society in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the assault on Amathole District Municipality (ADM) Mayoral Committee Member, Cllr Nanziwe Rulashe, at the hands of security officials from the municipality's head offices in East London.

What has happened is completely unacceptable and does not reflect the standards and values of a society where women are safe and can work and live freely.

While an investigation into this matter continues, SALGA would like to send a clear message that all acts of violence committed against women must never be tolerated.

Commemorative events

- World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on 2 February to raise awareness about wetlands. This day also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.
- Each year on 4 February, World Cancer Day empowers all of us across the world to show support, raise our collective voice, take personal action, and press our governments to do more. World Cancer Day is the only day on the global health calendar where we can all unite and rally under the one banner of cancer in a positive and inspiring way.
- The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) will host the annual Ubuntu Awards on Saturday, 12 February 2022, in Cape Town. The event will be held under the theme: "Celebrating Excellence in Diplomacy – Working together to build a better Africa and a Better world".

- Now in its sixth year, the Ubuntu Awards ceremony is an opportunity for DIRCO to recognise South African industry leaders, eminent persons and ordinary citizens for their distinguished service and contribution toward promoting the country's national interests and values across the world.
- Since 2009, every 20 February has been the UN observance known as "World Day of Social Justice". The purpose of the day is to focus on the plight of social injustice throughout the world and to press for improvements and solutions.
- World Day of Social Justice recognises the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, employment, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.
- Celebrated every year on 21 February, UNESCO reiterates its commitment to linguistic diversity and invites its Member States to celebrate the day in as many languages as possible as a reminder that linguistic diversity and multilingualism are essential for sustainable development.

UNESCO has been celebrating International Mother Language Day for nearly 20 years with the aim of preserving linguistic diversity and promoting mother tongue-based multilingual education.

- International Tourist Guide Day is held on 21st February each year. Celebrations were held for the first time in 1990 by the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) at which time only 15 countries around the world participated and jointly celebrated this special day. Over the years, awareness about this day has grown and to date, more than 70 countries celebrate this event worldwide.

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#InspiringServiceDelivery and look out for more activities planned for the 20
Years of Democratic Local Government on the SALGA website: www.salga.org.za
and all our social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.