

Enquiries: S Mbambato
Tel: 012 369 8000
E-mail:
smbambato@salga.org.za
Date: 07 February 2024



Physical:
Block B, Menlyn Corporate Park,
175 Corobay Ave, Waterkloof
Glen Ext II, PRETORIA 0181
Postal: PO Box 2094,
PRETORIA 0001

MEDIA ADVISORY

Monday, 11 March 2024

SALGA convenes 4th Municipal Legal Practitioners' Forum to build efficient local government legal services and improve its administration.

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) will convene the 4th SALGA Municipal Legal Practitioners' Forum (MLPF) on the 14 -15 March 2024 in Durban to strengthen local government legal service and to deepen efficient municipal administration for the benefit of communities.

The two-day legal practitioners gathering is scheduled to be addressed by The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development Ronald Lamola who will deliver a keynote address and Minister of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs Thembi Nkadimeng.

Appropriately themed "Building capable, resilient, efficient and effective municipal legal services through capacity building, knowledge exchange, and peer learning", the forum will, address legal challenges, opportunities, and obstacles to improve local government administration by bringing together municipal accounting officers, heads of legal and directors, legal experts, and practicing lawyers and advocates under one roof.

Minister Lamola's address will reflect on the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's initiatives to ensure the effective and efficient administration of justice and the deepening of constitutional democracy in South Africa, with a particular focus on the benefits for local government and communities, while Minister Nkadimeng will reflect on the interventions in response to legal challenges faced by municipalities.

In the past, several municipalities have struggled with issues like residents withholding rates and trading service payments, attaching municipal assets and bank accounts, taking over buildings, business forums stopping projects, and destruction of municipal infrastructure, among other things.

Highlights of the agenda include:

Panel discussions on pressing issues such as hijacked buildings, slum-lording, and illegal electricity connections in urban areas, with a focus on recent legal developments, including the City of Joburg court ruling.

- Exploration of challenges surrounding the Prevention of Illegal Eviction Act (PIA), proposed legislative amendments to manage coalition governments and stabilize municipalities.
- Examination of proposed amendments to the Municipal Structures Act and the impact of municipal bank account attachments on affected municipalities.
- Updates on SALGA's litigation matters with Eskom and Nersa,
- Emerging legal considerations regarding the use of water cut-offs as a credit control measure in municipalities.

Members of the media who wish to attend the 4th SALGA's Municipal Legal Practitioners' Forum I advised to RSVP to smbambato@salga.org.za

Ends

Issued by: South African Local Government Association

For media inquiries, please contact Sivuyile Mbambato | Email: smbambato@salga.org.za | Mobile: 073 897 8519.