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MEDIA ADVISORY

Wednesday, 13 March 2024

SALGA gears up for the gathering of legal minds in local government

It's all systems go for the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) 4th Municipal Legal Practitioners' Forum (MLPF), taking place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, 14 -15 March 2024.

The aim of the forum is to address pertinent legal challenges while identifying opportunities to enhance local government administration and fortify legal services.

SALGA President Cllr. Bheke Stofile, KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Chairperson Cllr. Arthur Ntuli, and the hosting Mayor of the City of eThekweni, Cllr. Mxolisi Kaunda are all expected to set the tone for deliberations which promise to change and redirect the legal landscape of local governance for better and improve service delivery.

Appropriately themed "Building capable, resilient, efficient and effective municipal legal services through capacity building, knowledge exchange, and peer learning", the two-day legal practitioners gathering will bring together under one roof municipal decision-makers, municipal accounting officers, heads of legal and directors, legal experts, and practicing lawyers and advocates.

The details of the 4th Municipal Legal Practitioners' Forum

Venue: Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, Durban

Time: 08h00 – 17h00

Date: 14 -15 March 2024.

In the past, several municipalities have struggled with issues like residents withholding rates and trading service payments, unstable coalition arrangements, 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).
- Examination of proposed amendments to the Municipal Structures Act and Structures Act.
- The impact of municipal bank account attachments on affected municipalities.
- Updates on SALGA's litigation matters with Eskom and Nersa, in relation to Multi Year Price Determination (MYPD), and Declaratory Order in relation to Energy Reticulation.
- Emerging legal considerations regarding the use of water cut-offs as a credit control measure in municipalities.
- Approach and proposed legislative amendments to manage coalition governments and create stability in municipalities.
- Proposed review of a suite of local government legislation with regards to the White Paper on Local Government, and other subsequent pieces of legislation promulgated.

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

Ends

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