



South African

# CitiesNetwork

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2020



# THE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK

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**NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2020**





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# EDITOR'S NOTE

*Dear Stakeholder,*

Welcome to our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter.

As South Africa enters Level 1 lockdown restrictions to allow for further economic activity and begin the economic recovery process of sectors that have been completely restricted, we as the SACN encourage everyone to follow the guidelines set out by World Health Organisation (WHO) until we have a workable vaccine. Many countries have experienced a resurgence in Covid-19 infections after passing their peak and president Ramaphosa has warned that a second wave in South Africa would be devastating to our towns and cities. The move to level 1 comes after the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) has agreed to an action plan for South Africa's economic recovery. The plan is directed towards building confidence and placing South Africa on a path of investment and growth. While the final details of the plan will only be announced once it is finalised by cabinet, the presidency said that a core focus will be on addressing Eskom's structural and funding problems

We commend our cities for their role in ensuring the well-being of its citizen is prioritised and that the business of cities isn't disrupted during this pandemic. We know this has not been an easy task for any government or city government around the world as we have not experienced this kind of global pandemic in recent years. The COVID-19 outbreak in South Africa has demonstrated the need to make partnering between different actors important moving forward. We require now more than ever, a collective urban development agenda to be pursued by all actors. As we enter the month of October, we celebrate Urban Month also referred to as Urban October which culminates on the last day of the month into World Cities Day.

This year, together with our partners the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs [CoGTA], Civic Tech Innovation Network [CTIN], Open Cities Lab [OCL], Journalism and Media Lab [JAMLAB] and Our Future Cities [OFC] will host the Urban Festival 2020 from 1-31 October 2020. The Urban Festival 2020 provides a platform to bring energy and connection to many urban development actors and initiatives. The festival is a first of its kind for the urban development fraternity in South Africa and is scheduled to take place on various digital platforms to empower and activate people to consciously participate in the transformation of South Africa's cities and towns. To find out how to get involved please go to <https://www.urbanfestival.co/>

# EDITOR'S NOTE



In this edition of our newsletter, we showcase some of the key SACN activities of this last quarter. These include the BEITT Virtual Festival by the Built Environment Task Team, the Civic Tech World Café event by CDS. Under our Inclusive Cities programme we shine light on the Sibikwa Arts Festival and the launch of the State of Crime and Safety in SA Cities Report 2020. The Productive Cities Programme highlights the Township Economies events and look at the Intermediate Cities Project. The Sustainable Cities Programme shines light on the launch of eThekweni Municipality's Durban Climate Action Plan. We also look at Part 2 of the Urban Governance Paper Series Vol.1 launch which took place in September hosted by the Well-Governed Cities Programme. In our City Focus we look at the City of Ekurhuleni's latest sustainability initiatives and update you on our Team News and Events.

We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter.

Thank you for being our loyal reader.

Best Wishes,

Sithole Mbanga  
CEO







# CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

City Finances: Let us make the best with the less we have!

By Xola Pakati

It has been a tough year for the country characterised by grief, anxiety, and sorrow. We draw minimal comfort from the fact that the country has now been moved to level 1 of the lockdown, meaning that there are fewer new infections and the readiness of the health system is in order.

It is however important to note that it is the risk-adjusted strategy that has been moved to level 1, not the virus. The Corona Virus still exists, it is still highly infectious and is destructive to human life. Cities should therefore be of the understanding that the war is not yet over.

With the type of conduct that we have seen ever since the move to level 1 and level 2, we can be certain that the second wave of rising infections is not only possible but imminent. We are pleading with all residents and city stakeholders to be extra vigilant. The anguish and sorrow we have felt over the past few months should not be repeated. We need each of us in this period of rebuilding our cities and our country.

Whilst the COVID-19 has greatly affected human life, its economic devastation has been catastrophic. Few facts are that our economy is currently in its longest downward cycle since the Second World War. Forecasts are that our economy will lose about 4 million jobs this year alone leading to rising poverty and inequality. The South African Reserve Bank estimates that the Gross Domestic Product of the country will decline by at least 7 per cent in 2020.

In the last quarterly newsletter, I reflected on the need for cities to have solid post-COVID-19 economic recovery plans which are anchored on infrastructure as a key stimulus for growth. The reality is that infrastructure development requires the availability, correct deployment, and good management of finances.

Cities should therefore busy themselves with implementing well-designed and balanced financial strategies that are anchored on ensuring a stable and healthy revenue collection whilst leveraging finances and assets for further development. Such strategies should be carefully balanced, ensuring that there is sustainability of city finances whilst ensuring that ratepayers are not overstretched. Improving the collection rate and reducing the debtors' book should be the preoccupation of municipalities.

There also needs to be clear expenditure management and control, more particularly because there was less expenditure on infrastructure during the high levels of the COVID-19 lockdown. This should not be expenditure for its sake, but it should be correctly

# CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

City Finances: Let us make the best with the less we have!



allocated to priority projects that will have a catalytic impact on the economic recovery of the respective cities. The temptation to reprioritise and adjust budgets in favour of quick wins that do not have a long-term impact should be avoided.

People are still yearning for development and they will never understand a COVID-19 excuse from their municipalities, this is why expenditure should be guardedly expedited. I have seen that during level 5 to level 2 of the COVID-19 lockdown, most cities experienced few protests, but this does not mean that there were no complaints or issues.

This can only mean that since we are now on level 1 of the risk-adjusted strategy, we are likely to see some protests from communities who are yearning for services. It is therefore fair to say that we have entered a very volatile season from now up until the elections and we should remain organised and direct funds to those areas that will have a decisive and lasting developmental impact for the Cities.

Another key element of a post-COVID city financial strategy should be adequate monitoring and control. In an environment where city finances are negatively affected by several factors, there is a need for their protection from corruption and looting. Sound financial and administrative management is not an option but a prerequisite for the successful running of cities in this era and beyond. This is therefore an important time for us to improve city institutional capacities, establish controls, and inculcate a culture of selfless service and professionalism in our cities.

There is therefore no doubt that the effective implementation of all development projects in cities vests on the leadership, systems, and process of the institutions having the credibility that is sufficient to garner the confidence of the public. City finances are under a lot of strain; let us correctly use them and make the best with what we have for the benefit of residents.

Councillor Xola Pakati is the Chairperson of the South African Cities Network Council, an NEC Member of SALGA, and the Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.



# BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Through a series of meetings, workshops, case studies and research projects, the Built Environment Integration Task Team (BEITT) has been working to influence built environment practice based on the experience of municipal practitioners and developing a collective voice to improve the system of local government.

To respond to the challenges of Covid-19, and in particular, the strain it has put on municipalities, the BEITT has used this time to come together virtually on a much more regular basis. The virtual engagements have helped the BEITT Secretariat to understand where practitioners are at, professionally and personally.

The series of virtual engagements for thinking through post-COVID19 recovery led up to the annual retreat, where the group gets together to plan the way forward. Since the group could not physically be together, we held a Virtual festival instead, to celebrate the strides taken in producing practitioner centric knowledge and challenge the task team to confront systemic and societal challenges in the built environment through the lens of power.

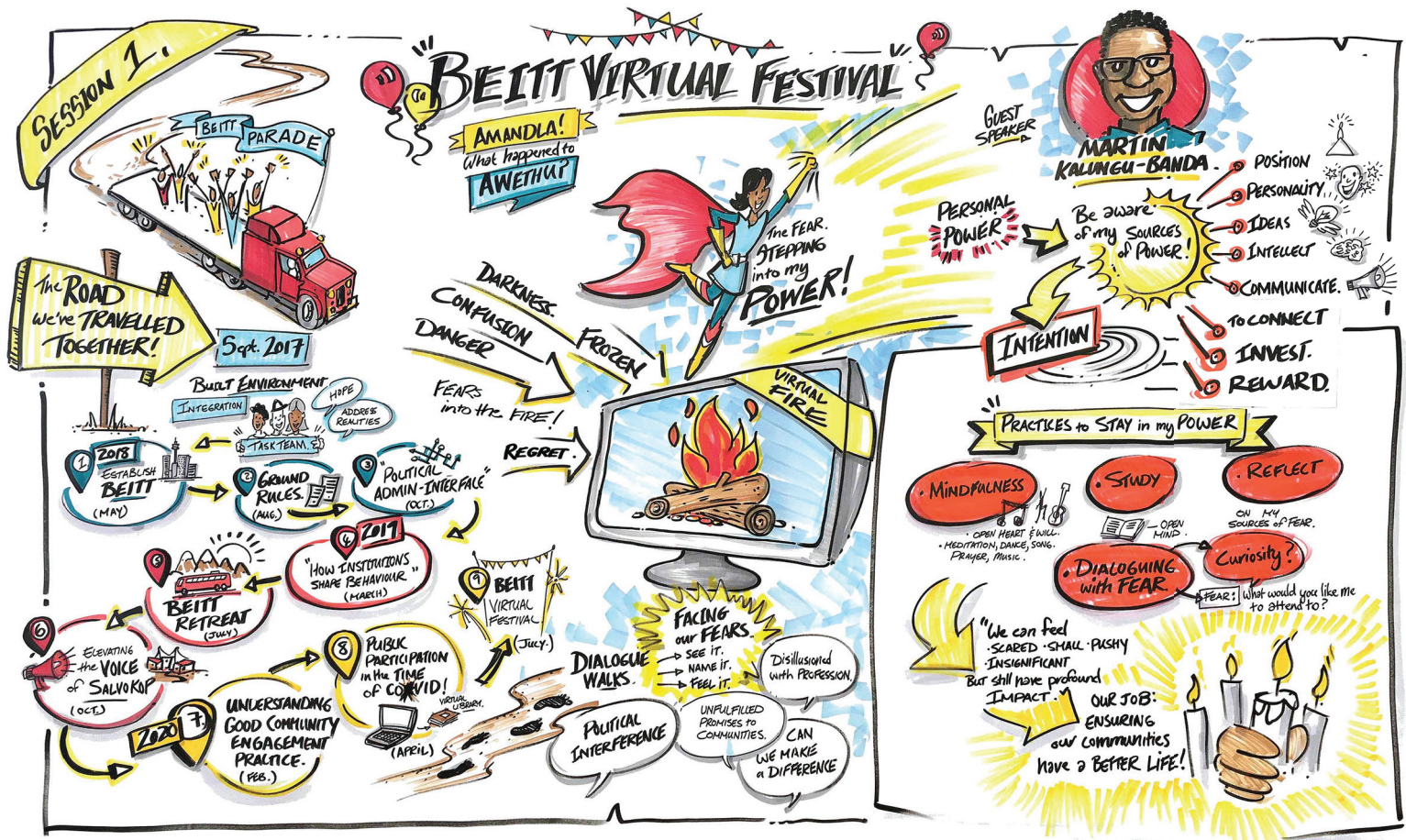
The Virtual Festival sought to address the deep-rooted experiences of fear and powerlessness that practitioners experience, by conceptualising the theme of the Festival as “Amandla! What happened to Awethu?”. Through this theme we explored notions of power and what it takes to step into one’s own power through developing a relationship with one’s fear. The question “What happened to Awethu?” implies that the very people we are meant to hold the power are becoming more and more disempowered.





As part of the journey of understanding our collective power, it became apparent that taking care of the self is crucial, as the system will go on as if practitioners don't exist when they suffer burnout. This has been central to the work of the task team, where the group collectively engages to not only deal with the issues they face in cities across the country, but to hold a valuable intellectual and mental space for the collective wellbeing of city practitioners too.

The learnings and growth that the team has experienced through the festival is being carried forward into an exciting calendar of engagements for 2020/2021 for the BEITT. This is the year that the team will focus on stepping into our power to ultimately influence the system by interfacing with the leadership, disseminating the messages of the BEITT work and shifting our own practice.



Visual summary of the session with guest speaker at the festival, Martin Kalungu-Banda



# CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Following a COVID-19 Webinar hosted by the South African Council for City Data (SACCD), in partnership with the Civic Tech Innovation Network, in June 2020, it became apparent that there is a need to find practical solutions that cities can use to address not only the data challenges cities face, but to expose cities to the many solutions developed by civil society. An immediate response from both organisations was to host a “World Café” virtual event where city practitioners, and interested civil society members, could engage with existing civic tech organisations.

This created a platform for engagement where practitioners could engage with civic tech experts on their projects and the opportunities and challenges that emerge when adopting civic technology in metropolitan municipalities. The event, hosted on July 30th 2020, aimed to:

- Create a platform for the opportunity to gain exposure on what is happening in the civic tech environment in South Africa.
- Encourage practitioners in local government to appreciate the capability and talent that exists which can be applied in their various departments.
- Present an opportunity for civic tech enthusiasts to draw inspiration for ideas that could lend themselves to local government improvement.
- Lastly, this was an opportunity to consider the actions that practitioners could take to enhance practice.

Organisations such as GovChat, Grassroot and OpenUp, took the ‘virtual’ stage to engage on their platforms and how they work directly with local government to support participatory citizenship.

Finding practical solutions to challenging problems in local government requires innovative approaches and shifts in thinking.

Through civic technology, our local governments have access to creative and innovative thinkers who are able to leverage technology to resolve systemic problems that many of our municipalities face.

Civic technology, which refers to tools and services aimed at improving life for citizens through tech-based solutions, is a growing field that can offer South African metropolitan municipalities with practical tools that respond to the urban challenges in our cities.



# CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Namola and LumaLaw, were also present to show the value of civic tech solutions being developed in our local communities and how these can support the challenges society is grappling with such as gender-based violence and urban safety. Lastly, the 2019-nCoV Online Platform developed by the University of Pretoria showed how the country rapidly managed to collect COVID-19 data, and how this data can be used for evidence-based decision-making.

Participants were able to shuffle through 3 organisations to engage in-depth on the tools and/or services rendered by each. Although civic technology has a critical role to play, some of the challenges that emerge go beyond the role of local government to highlight the benefits of an all-of-society approach. Discussion showed that in order for our cities to adopt civic technology solutions, it is important to ensure that broader challenges such as national access to data, informing civil society about available civic tech tools and services, and breaking siloes through collaboration are prioritised.

Access to the internet remains a major challenge for South Africa, in order to implement civic tech solutions, it is important to find solutions that address issues such as data affordability and access to tech resources. Local government has a role to play in addressing some of these challenges. Our municipalities can reach out and seek to collaborate with existing civic tech organisations, create spaces for collaboration and engagement and invest in supporting civic tech organisations that support good governance practices.

The SACCD and the CTIN plan to continue hosting similar events to create spaces where our practitioners can engage in finding solutions that improve practice in local government.



## CIVIC TECH FOR CITIES WEBINAR

DATE: 30 JULY 2020  
TIME: 10am-12pm  
VENUE: ZOOM

In partnership with:  South African Cities Network



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MS. MELISSA ZISENGWE AT MELISSA.ZISENGWE@WITS.AC.ZA OR MS. SADHNA BHANA AT SADHNA@SACITIES.NET





# CITY FOCUS

The City of Ekurhuleni

Water availability is vitally important for food and energy security, economic growth and sustaining the livelihoods of people across the globe. However, the world is far from being water secure, with demand for this precious resource already outstripping supply in many regions.

Failure to adequately invest in water services and to collect, treat and reuse water efficiently is exacerbating water shortages in many parts of the world and contributing to a situation where global demand for water could outstrip supply within 20 years, according to United Nations Environmental Programme (Unep) estimates. However, as the world's population grows coupled with factors such as increased levels of urbanisation, mounting demand from user sectors, a lack of investment in infrastructure, deteriorating water quality and the effects of climate change, the significance of water in economic and social development is increasingly being recognised.



The Water Infrastructure of Kempton Park is around 60 years old and since the establishment of the City of Ekurhuleni, maintenance of ailing water infrastructure has been a challenge. To address this challenge the city has committed funding to build the Bredell reservoir which will altogether add 417 mega litres of water storage translating into approximately 12-hour additional storage capacity taking the total storage limit to 48 hours. This means the City will be able to supply water for a period of between 36 to 48 hours without getting the supply from the water supplier, Rand Water.

The construction of the Bredell reservoir started in February 2018, providing 140 job opportunities to the communities living closer to the construction site. Built at a cost of R69 850 190,00, the reservoir comes as a huge relief to the community of Kempton Park and the industries such as warehouses and logistics companies, notably the Plumbago Business and Logistics Park situated few kilometres from the site of the reservoir.



# CITY FOCUS

The City of Ekurhuleni



Substantial financial commitments are being made by government towards improving the backlog in urban water provision and creating sustainable neighbourhoods. The Bredell reservoir in Kempton Park is one such project and is almost complete with contractors applying finishes before it is ready to take in water. Once completed, the reservoir will add 22.5 mega litres of storage to the City's existing 954 mega litres.

“This reservoir is going to augment the water supply to the whole of Kempton Park, addressing the supply interruptions that have been experienced in the area recently. There are altogether 29 reservoirs that are under construction in Ekurhuleni,” MMC for Water, Sanitation and Energy Tiisetso Nketle said.

The reservoir will be tested in October to check if there are no water leaks on it. The whole project is scheduled for completion by the end of December 2020.



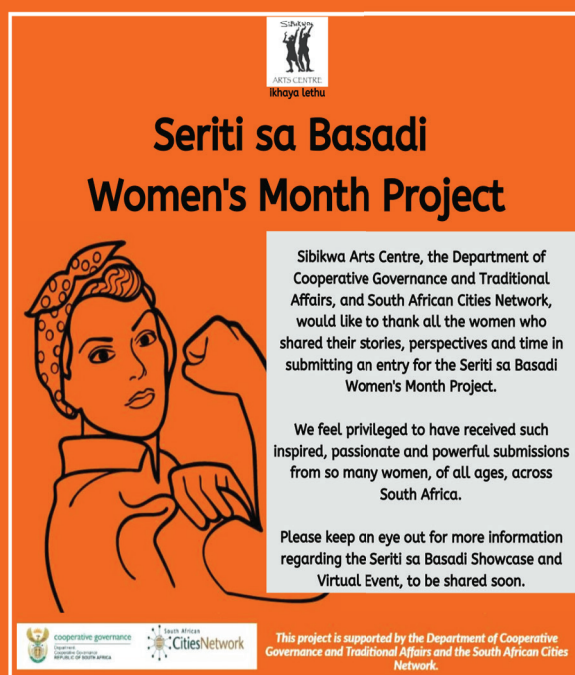
*The Bredell Reservoir in Kempton Park, Ekurhuleni*

The Inclusive Cities programme has great interest in incorporating the arts as a critical tool for ideation and expression of visions for the cities of the future.

The Inclusive Cities Programme was part of the hosting effort for Sibikwa Arts Centre's annual women's month event, under the theme "Seriti sa Basadi".

The event, which took place on the 26th of August, was a partnership between the SACN, Sibikwa Arts Centre, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and the Department of Sports, Culture and Recreation. Loosely translated, Seriti sa Basadi means "Dignity of Women" which is exactly what the event embodied, showcasing women's significant contributions to the arts, health, and politics, among other fields.

As part of the build up to the virtual celebration, Sibikwa Arts Centre's business arts manager, Caryn Green, graced the first of SACN's Instagram Live sessions, to speak about the importance of empowering communities - especially vulnerable groups such as women, youth and people with disabilities - and the importance of the arts in approaches to this.



Hence the Youth & City Space work stream includes arts-based inquiry as method of both intelligence gathering, and capacitation of young people as empowered urban actors. The project is in support of the Integrated Urban Development Framework's Lever 7, which emphasises empowered and active communities as critical to effective urban governance and addressing the myriad of challenges facing cities.



On 15 September, the Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) launched the State of Crime and Safety in SA Cities Report 2020. This is an interim update on city-level crime statistics. It comes in the lead to the 4th edition of USRG's flagship product The State of Urban Safety in South African Cities Report, which is scheduled for 2021. The 2020 report analyses the crime and security trends of nine of South Africa's major cities: Johannesburg, Cape Town, eThekweni, Ekurhuleni, Tshwane, Nelson Mandela Bay, Mangaung, Buffalo City and Msunduzi.

This report is part of the USRG's ongoing interventions to create an evidence base that informs policy, strategy and makes the case for safety and violence prevention as a cross-cutting theme, requiring integrated approaches.

urban safety reference group

## INVITES YOU

Date: 15 Sep 2020  
Time: 11:45am-12:30pm  
Venue: Online-MS Teams

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

In partnership with:  
german cooperation GIZ South African CitiesNetwork

The State of Crime and Safety in SA Cities REPORT 2020

"Supporting the role of local governments in building cities and human settlements where all people are safe and enjoy equal rights, opportunities and fundamental freedoms"  
IN SAFETY WITH COURAGE ON SA CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEBATE

LAUNCH



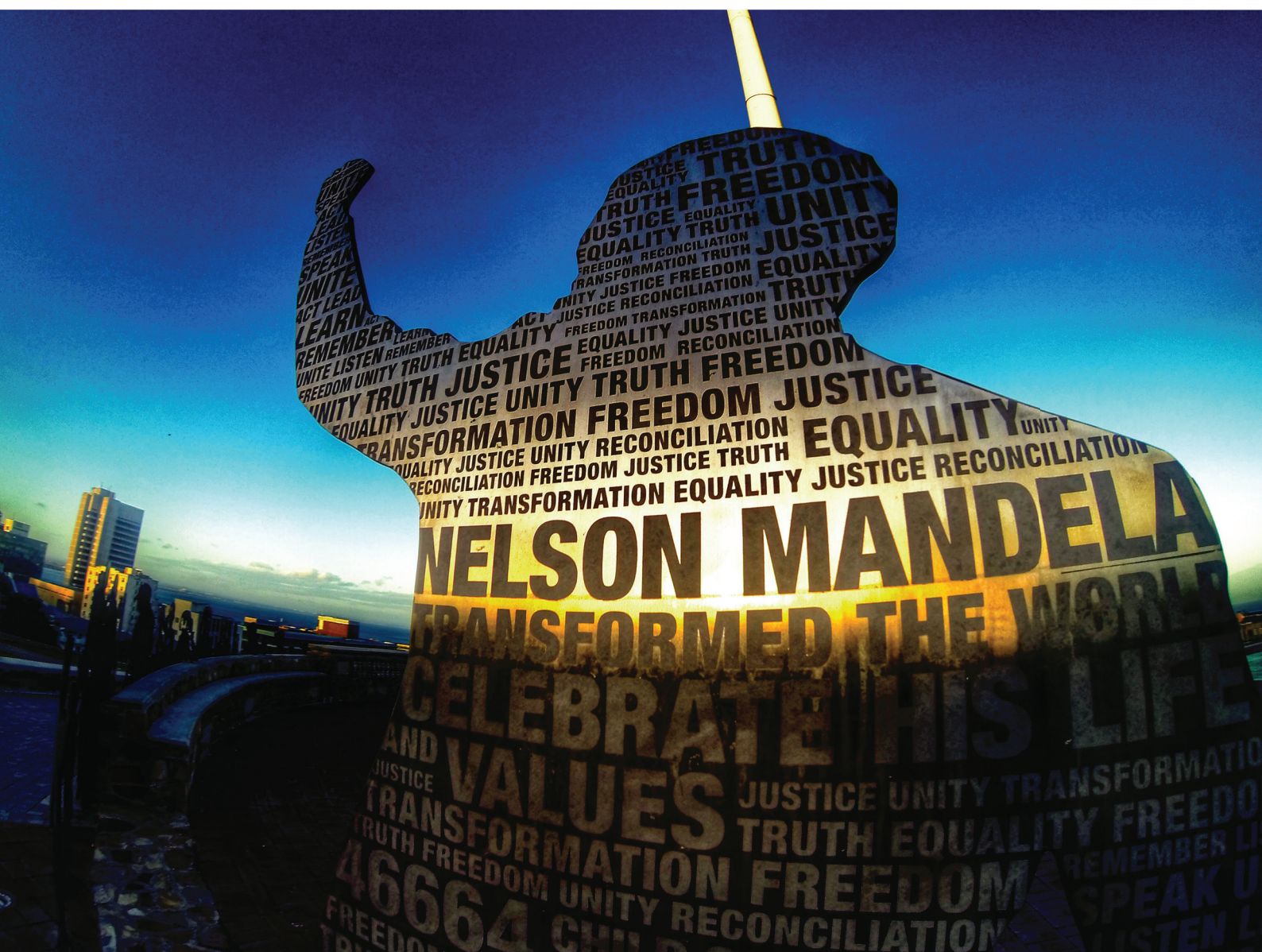
As part of its ongoing advocacy for integrated practice, the USRG has planned a joint session with SACN's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Reference Group. The purpose of the session is to explore how cities can leverage EPWP initiatives for safety programmes and identify productive opportunities for the institutionalisation of collaborative practice at the municipal level.

This recognises that there is a fundamental relation between the EPWP's objectives to reduce unemployment and provide skills development, and the USRG's premise to help create safer cities through integrated approaches. Poverty, unemployment, homelessness etc. are some of the contributing factors of crime, further highlighting the importance of transversal governance.



Also to look forward to in the USRG is the “Mini How-to Guide for Metropolitan Local Governments on Community Engagements” project, which kicked off in the first week of September. The guide aims to address some of the challenges of participatory processes, by empowering practitioners with skills and approaches to effective community engagement.

The mini toolkit will include practical tools to facilitate and manage participatory processes across different thematic areas and contexts. Keep an eye of out for interactive virtual engagements that will form part of this project!









# PRODUCTIVE CITIES

The fragmented legal and policy framework currently in townships continues to act as an impediment to the growth and meaningful integration of township economies, highlighting the need for an enabling framework. In this regard, the SACN will convene consultative webinars comprising of government departments, members of the public, township entrepreneurs, researchers, academics and other stakeholders of interest.

The following dates are scheduled for the initial webinars:

29TH SEPTEMBER 2020

6TH OCTOBER 2020

The purpose in this regard is to solicit buy-in and provide an educational platform for stakeholders amongst other objectives in light of the promulgation of the Gauteng Township Economic Development Act.





The role of Intermediate Cities in regional economies, and their economic vulnerabilities has been stressed in a series of publications since the project took off in 2012



## EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

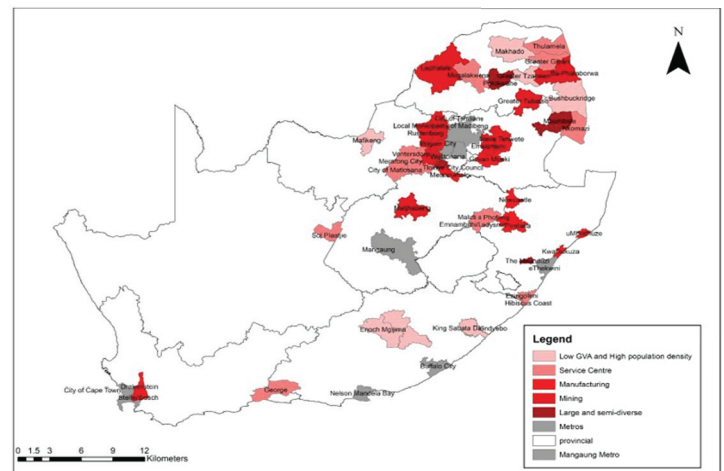
Scheduled for October 1st, 2020, the Productive Cities team will convene city representatives responsible for implementing EPWP in the 52nd Reference Group Meeting.

This is amid the ongoing production of research focusing on the Meta-analysis of EPWP Case studies in cities, and the establishment of a How to Guide on implementing the EPWP in cities. The EPWP Reference Group continue to be empowered to evolve and adapt to the current circumstances and push the boundaries in poverty reduction and job creation through public employment programmes.

In collaboration with the Urban Safety Reference Group, the EPWP Reference Group members undertook a joint virtual session to explore synergies and joint initiatives to leverage through EPWP for urban safety programmes.

The two Reference Groups continue to explore meaningful connections at city level among crime prevention, urban safety and city-lead EPWP practitioners through joint sessions and successfully held a joint session on the 15 September 2020 in which they established connections, collaboration and

knowledge sharing among Urban Safety and EPWP practitioners at the city level and conducted interactive brainstorming on possible collaborative projects for 2020/21 cycle.



The last publication titled **Rethinking Doing LED in Intermediate Cities** stresses this point and further highlights the importance of economic diversification and seeks to reimagine 'Local Economic Development', a seemingly ambiguous concept among practitioners. The current ICM project, for which the outcome can be expected in the short term, focuses on Profiling of Intermediate Cities, looking at economic development profiles and related issues. The project focuses on 39 ICMs in South Africa and features three case studies on the municipalities of , Emalahleni, Newcastle and Matjhabeng.



# SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Making Significant Strides Towards Climate Action

This month, the eThekweni Municipality Mayor, Councillor Mxolisi Kaunda, launched the Durban Climate Action Plan. Through the support of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Durban officially became the first city on the African continent and one of only 12 cities in the world to develop and adopt a Climate Action Plan aligned to the United Nations 2015 Paris Agreement.

The city's journey towards this Climate Action Plan has been incremental and strategic over the past 12 years. From 2008, the city began to advance and embed the climate change agenda into plans and policies and take advantage of opportunities that arose to advance climate change adaptation and mitigation.

This incremental approach resulted in eThekweni recognising the need for a strategic response to climate change policy and governance and developed a city-wide Durban Climate Change Strategy in 2015. This has driven the institutionalisation of the climate change agenda across city planning and operations and has now culminated in this significant milestone in the form of the Durban Climate Action Plan.



## LAUNCH OF THE DURBAN CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



CLLR MXOLISI KAUNDA  
MAYOR OF ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY



# SUSTAINABLE CITIES

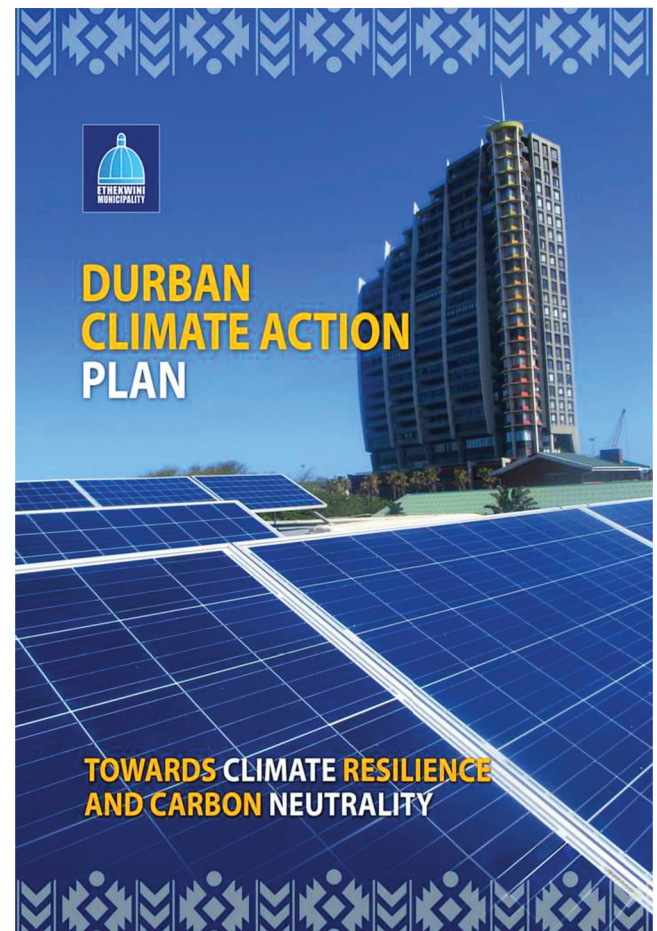
Making Significant Strides Towards Climate Action



The Climate Action Plan addresses the need for rapid transformation and outlines a pathway to transition Durban to a sustainable, climate resilient and carbon neutral city by 2050. It is divided into nine themes, 33 high-level actions and 149 sub-actions focusing on energy, transport, water and flooding, waste, biodiversity, food security, health, sea level rise and vulnerable communities, planned over the medium to long-term.

The launch of the Durban Climate Action Plan took place just two weeks after cabinet approved the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which sets out and supports the country's ability to meet its obligations in terms of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

More recently, cabinet also approved three key items, the Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission (PCCCC) to coordinate and oversee the just transition advocated in the National Development Plan; the country's Low Emissions Development Strategy; and the revised National Waste Management Strategy 2020.



All these positive developments in the sector reinforce an enabling environment for local government to continue to step up efforts in the implementation of climate resilience interventions, emission reduction projects, job creation and inclusive economic growth strategies; the majority of which take place in cities through climate action strategies and plans.

Other SACN participating cities are following eThekweni with the development of their Climate Action Plans, which are well underway. The cities of Johannesburg and Tshwane are both at an advanced stage and will also be joining eThekweni as forerunners on the continent.





# SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Making Significant Strides Towards Climate Action

The success and achievement of the goals set out in cities' Climate Action Plans will rely on effective citizen engagement and active citizen participation to ensure support, collaboration and the forging of partnerships across all sectors of society. All spheres of government, civil society, the private sector, academia and communities need to understand and realise the multiple co-benefits of climate action planning such as:

- creating new types of jobs in the green and circular economy;
- improving efficiencies and reducing costs in energy-intensive industries;
- improving business competitiveness;
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- improving air quality and the health and well-being of citizens;
- enabling social inclusion, social justice and addressing inequality;
- ensuring food, energy and water security;
- preserving vital ecosystems and species;
- conserving water resources and ensuring clean water supply; and
- improving overall resilience.

These and more co-benefits need to be highlighted from the onset to all stakeholders for cities to get the full support and behavioural change required to make Climate Action Plans achievable.





# WELL GOVERNED CITIES

Launch of Urban Governance Paper Series Part II. Urban Governance Webinar 10 September 2020

On 10 September 2020, the Well-Governed Cities programme held a Zoom webinar to launch part II of the urban governance paper series. Programme Manager Danga Mughogho, facilitated the webinar panel, which consisted of three authors: Dr Sam Koma, Kevin Foster and Lethu Masango.

The aim of the Urban Governance Paper Series is to explore different issues that affect the ability of cities to deliver on their mandate, ranging from institutional strength and capacity, to financial management and administrative efficiency, and people, power and politics. The first volume of the series contains eight papers covering four broad governance themes: positive rights and service delivery; accountability, democracy and participation; administration, finance and government; and the private sector and innovation.

Authors	Paper Title	Governance Theme
Dr. Sam Koma	“The Progressive Realisation of Socio-economic Rights” examines the extent to which cities have realised the socio-economic rights enshrined in the Constitution, based on the various judgments that have clarified the responsibilities of cities.	Positive rights and service delivery
Kevin Foster	“South Africa’s Tools for Urban Public Participation” diagnoses the shortcomings of current public participation processes used by municipalities and describes some innovative procedural methods and technology-based tools that can result in meaningful public participation.	Accountability, democracy and participation
Lethu Masango	“Power Dynamics in Municipal Governance: Insights from the City of Johannesburg”, uses a case study of the ANC’s Regional Economic Transformation Committee in Johannesburg to develop an understanding of the relationship between city politicians and administrators, and offers some lessons for the future of urban governance.	Administration, finance and government

# WELL GOVERNED CITIES

Launch of Urban Governance Paper Series Part II. Urban Governance Webinar 10 September 2020

The COVID-19 crisis and how it has been managed by the government has placed governance front and centre in public discourse. This focus will only increase in the months leading up to the local government elections that bring to an end this administrative cycle next year.

The Well Governed Cities Programme is planning a number of urban governance dialogues in the coming weeks and months that will engage our cities, citizens and local government stakeholders.



The graphic features a background of abstract, colorful brushstrokes in shades of blue, green, and yellow. At the top, the text 'URBAN GOVERNANCE PAPER SERIES' is written in a large, bold, black, distressed font. To the right of this text, 'LAUNCH PART 2' is written in white on an orange rectangular background. Below the main title, three circular portraits of the speakers are arranged horizontally. Each portrait is set within an orange circular frame. Underneath each portrait is a white rectangular box containing the speaker's name and title in a purple serif font.

**URBAN GOVERNANCE PAPER SERIES** LAUNCH PART 2

**Dr. Sam Koma**  
HOD Research  
Milpark Business School

**Kevin Foster**  
Independent  
Research Consultant

**Lethu Masango**  
Urban Economist  
World Bank

DATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2020 TIME: 11AM-12PM VENUE: ONLINE (ZOOM Webinar)



# TEAM NEWS AND EVENTS

Welcoming Geoff Bickford as the newest member of the SACN Executive Committee



**GEOFF BICKFORD**

EXECUTIVE MANAGER

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Geoff Bickford is the new Executive Manager: Programmes at the South African Cities Network, having previously been the Programme Manager for the Built Environment managing integrated research and knowledge sharing in the thematic areas of land, spatial planning, human settlements and transport. He also previously managed the municipal finance research portfolio.

He holds a masters degree in transport studies and a BSc in urban and regional planning and recently completed social entrepreneurship certification. He has a particularly strong appreciation of integrated and institutional developmental challenges facing urban areas. He has written extensively on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in the South African context and is increasingly interested in the institutional and organisational dimensions of city government

# TEAM NEWS AND EVENTS

Communication in the Time of COVID-19

## COMMUNICATION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

JOIN US AS WE CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION!

**DATE: 29 JULY 2020**

**TIME: 11:00AM-13:00PM**

**VENUE: MS TEAMS**



CLOSER COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN THE 3 SPHERES  
OF GOVERNMENT AROUND COMMUNICATIONS



# TEAM NEWS AND EVENTS

The role of Women in Arts against GBV



CARYN GREEN  
SIBIKWE ARTS CENTRE



TLHOLOHELO MOKGERE  
SA CITIES NETWORK

Fri, 21 Aug 2020  
1pm-2:30pm  
@SACitiesNetwork

**TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

The Role of Women in the Arts,  
Gender Based Violence [GBV],  
Safer Cities & more!



AYANDA ROJI  
JOHANNESBURG CITY PARKS



SIPHELELE NGOBESE  
SA CITIES NETWORK

Fri, 28 Aug 2020  
1pm-2pm  
@SACitiesNetwork

**TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

Women's Safety in Cities & Public Spaces  
De-colonising Urban Spaces

**Make sure to follow:**  
@SACitiesNetwork



# TEAM NEWS AND EVENTS

Communication in the Time of COVID-19 & The Urban Festival 2020



## COMMUNICATION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

CITY GOVERNMENTS NEED TO BE RESILIENT NOW, AND THE WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS IS BY:

-  Access to the right insights at the right time
-  Closer collaboration between the levels of Government
-  Access to Urban Data to improve decision-making in cities
-  Governments being more responsive to its citizens will allow for trust to develop



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SADHNA BHANA AT [SADHNA@SACITIES.NET](mailto:SADHNA@SACITIES.NET) OR 082 505 0669

### YOU ARE INVITED

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:



**Jabulani Sikhakhane**  
Deputy Editor  
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**Jonathan Wilson**  
Urban Data Project Manager  
*SA Cities Network*

**26th  
AUG**  
10:00AM-12:30PM

1-31 Oct 2020

# Urban Festival 2020

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# South African CitiesNetwork

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