



South African

CitiesNetwork

QUARTER TWO NEWSLETTER | 2021 - 2022



THE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK

QUARTER TWO NEWSLETTER | 2021 - 2022



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Stakeholder,

Welcome to our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter.

On 1 November 2021, in the sixth municipal elections since the end of apartheid in 1994, South Africans went to the voting ballots to decide who would govern their cities for the next five years. The 2016 municipal elections resulted in many hung councils across South Africa, creating an opportunity for opposition parties to form coalitions to govern key municipalities, such as the City of Johannesburg, the City of Tshwane, Nelson Mandela Bay, and the City of Ekurhuleni. The recent local government elections saw a significant move away from single-party majorities to multi-party coalitions in city councils. Coalitions are inherently unstable, with executives particularly sensitive to political wind changes. At the same time, citizens are beginning to challenge the city leadership to move away from the combative nature of coalitions to cooperative governments that will grow local, truly inclusive economies. The fact that half of the voting population did not participate in the local government elections demonstrates that citizens are questioning the legitimacy of those running our cities, which is a good thing for our young democracy.

The new administrations will have to think critically about how to realise the vision of the Constitution's founding mothers and fathers, of a cooperative government where all spheres work together, with national and provincial governments supporting cities by filtering resources down to the local level to help cities deliver on their mandate. Such a vision assumes that municipalities are ready to receive public and private sector support and have put in place meaningful participation mechanisms with civil society organisations to help build and manage cities better.

Local governments have a key role to play in strengthening the interface among all relevant stakeholders and segments of society. To effectively fulfil this steering role, local governments must be appropriately empowered, capacitated, and resourced. This means devolving sufficient decision-making, priority-setting, and strategic-planning authority to the local level. Devolution must further provide local governments with the necessary powers and responsibilities, as well as sufficient access to and control over human and financial resources, to enable the effective implementation of plans and policies. At the same time, devolution must be accompanied by accountability mechanisms that define the powers of local govern-

EDITOR'S NOTE



ments and hold them accountable for how these are exercised.

Over the last five-year local government cycle, many invaluable lessons were learnt. As the country gradually emerges from COVID-19, there is both an urgent need and considerable political will for a new approach to urban governance. The opportunity needs to be seized for collaboration at local and national levels. The coalition governments that resulted from the recent local elections are a true sign of a growing democracy and are not a bad thing. Indeed, this could be our chance to fix our many challenges. Parties in a coalition will need to be flexible, co-operative, and mature in their actions, to enable a more collaborative environment across party lines. Such collaboration can only benefit those who feel the greatest impact of an unequal society: the poor and vulnerable among us.

In this edition of our newsletter, we showcase some of the key SACN activities of what could be defined as the most difficult work environment quarter since inception in 2002. Under our Inclusive-Cities programme, we look at Transforming the property sector: navigating tensions in delivering spatially transformed cities. The Productive Cities Programme looks at the Expanded Public Works Programme's Reference Group engagement and participation in the Urban Festival 2021. The Sustainable & Resilient Cities Programme looks at the fourth instalment of the Water Resilient Cities Learning Event. The Well-Governed Cities Programme takes a look at Urban Governance and Municipal Finance. Under City Focus we showcase the new administrations in our cities following the outcome of the 1 November 2021 Local Government Elections, and finally, we update you on our Team News and Events.

We hope that you will enjoy this latest edition of our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter and thank you for being our loyal readers.

Best wishes,
Sithole Mbanga

CEO, South African Cities Network



CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

Remarks by Chairperson of Council, Cllr Xola Pakati

Welcome to our second quarter online newsletter, which happens to be the first instalment in the new calendar year of 2022 and the first one post the sixth municipal election that installed a new local administration in November 2021. The new local administration comes into office in the backdrop of a host of challenges confronting our cities.

Chief among these is the level of political instability ushered by multiparty coalitions since their advent in the 2016-2021 municipal administration. This phenomenon of political instability in the business of cities further compounds an already stretched local government administration system that is contending with a spectrum of social, economic, financial, governance challenges, and not least of all, the ongoing service delivery priorities, which remain a key expectation from the electorate. To effectively deal with the above-noted challenges, the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) inspires an "all-of-society" approach to governance and development, resulting in collaborative partnerships, refocusing our efforts on delivering quality services, and fostering inclusion and innovation.

The incoming local administrations have a tough job ahead of serving the needs of the communities who elected them into office by successfully implementing the service delivery priorities of local government. This comes at a time when the public focus is also facing enormous constraints in all spheres of government as a result of historical slow economic growth. The latter will undoubtedly feature prominently in the coming State of the Nation Address (SONA) on the 10th of February 2022. The SONA as setting the overall tone of government business will be followed consecutively by the respective State of Cities' address from the incoming mayors which will serve to outline the vision of the new administrations insofar as the local government.

In the spirit of raising public confidence in the local administration, it would serve the incoming administrations to reassure the electorate of their commitment to the idea of local government as the people's true government. This idea draws from the constitutional status of local government as being the government sphere closest to the people and whose mandate remains to provide a democratic government for local communities, ensure services, and promote social and economic development.

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE



In preparation for the next five years, the SACN Council has approved a new Strategic Plan for the next five years (2021-26). The new five-year strategy is underpinned by the IUDF and seeks to assist cities in promoting spatial integration, inclusion, and access. The SACN will improve its value offering by:

Co-creating knowledge that helps cities address pressing challenges;

Facilitating shared learning and innovation, strengthening the collective voice of cities through evidence-based knowledge and advocacy; and

Leveraging its platform to bring together all of society to support cities.

Building a capable local government will require political stability with an effective political-administrative interface, cooperation with the other spheres of government, and partnerships between municipalities and citizens. We all need to be part of rebuilding our cities and our country.



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.

INCLUSIVE CITIES

Transforming the property sector: navigating tensions in delivering spatially transformed cities

The BEITT regularly hosts engagements with practitioners relating to topical issues, challenges, and pain points encountered in delivering on the spatial transformation agenda. The BEITT secretariat and inclusive cities team works to listen to practitioners' concerns and host learning events aimed at collectively making sense of issues in the built environment. The property sector is a major contributor to the built form of cities, its economic base, and its transformation agenda. Emerging issues were the profit-driven approaches of developers which limits transformation; the need for economic policies to support integrated settlement development, and emerging opportunities for conversion of vacant office space for residential and social land use.

The BEITT secretariat thus hosted a BEITT Learning Event on the 8th of December, to collectively unpack these issues and share learnings from practice. Key panellists invited for the discussion were Xhanti Payi from Nascence Advisory and Research and former advisor to the minister of housing; Nosipho Hlatshwayo executive manager for programmes at SACN and former city official; Yasmin Coovadia who is a planner at Zutari and former National Treasury CSP; and finally, Moremi Mowela who is an architect and developer from Black-Studio. The panellists had a discussion to start the session, raising the issue of defining spatial transformation and developing indicators for their measurement.



INCLUSIVE CITIES

Transforming the property sector: navigating tensions in delivering spatially transformed cities

Importantly, the notion of connecting townships to cities was debunked, where discussions revealed the apartheid mentality many still hold, where the goal is to bring people living in townships closer to the city, whereas we could focus on bringing the suburban populace into townships. This has major implications for property, development, where major corporations could establish their headquarters in townships, where many South Africans reside. BlackStudio presented their current property development model, which aims to make townships spaces of economic vitality and opportunity, by developing housing products for professionals who live in townships.

Preventing the brain-drain and leaking of talent from townships into suburbs, BlackStudio works to entice the upwardly mobile professionals in townships through architecture and create spaces that are not just functional but aspirational and reflective of their culture and identity. The meeting agreed that this was an exciting and critical intervention, undoubtedly in line with the ideals of spatial transformation, especially in townships. However, the challenge of poor coordination in the public sector remains an issue, as integration is lacking, and the government does not appear to be pulling in the same direction. Reflection in the session showed that policies, by-laws, and planning instruments need to be more enabling for the kind of work BlackStudio does and become more adaptive to respond to the flexible, transitional lifestyles that urban residents lead.



PRODUCTIVE CITIES

The State of the EPWP in South African Cities

City Engagements

It has been reported in the previous issue that the SACN has begun embedding itself within cities to better understand their unique challenges and opportunities. This has indeed been the core focus of the second reporting quarter of SACN, under the theme: review, engage and define. It has become imperative to comprehend how our cities' unique economic drivers continue to respond and adjust to the economic woes the country is facing. We have engaged with our various cities to deeply understand their economic circumstances, focusing on rethinking urban economies, job creation and skills development, and informal and township economies. These cities include Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, and the City of Johannesburg. Following these engagements will be the co-designing of programmes and strategies to respond to each city's specific challenges.

Various insights emerged from the city engagements to inform our next steps. From the onset, it has become clear that there is an urgent need to diversify economies towards labor-intensive sectors including those in the green economy. The need for increased support of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) has also become clear. Cities also need to be deliberate about the spatial distribution of economic activities. It has been gathered that our cities' economic development is changing because of the impacts of COVID-19 and socio-political unrest amongst other factors. Our cities are therefore leveraging on the newer focus areas/sectors to steer growth and continuously reviewing strategies on youth participation in the local economy.



PRODUCTIVE CITIES

The State of the EPWP in South African Cities

A glimpse into 2022

The current economic climate has highlighted the need for the Expanded Public Works Programme and other Public Employment Programmes to be agile and respond to challenges cities are facing. One of the ongoing challenges with EPWPs is the demand for permanent employment for participants upon exit, and defining viable exit strategies. In 2022, the SACN will be undertaking a comprehensive review of the existing exit strategies and developing an implementation plan relevant to the EPWP for implementation by cities.

A Terms of Reference will be issued in due course for this purpose.



SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES



It sustains, it renews, it is the lifeblood that courses through the veins of our beautiful planet. It, is Water.

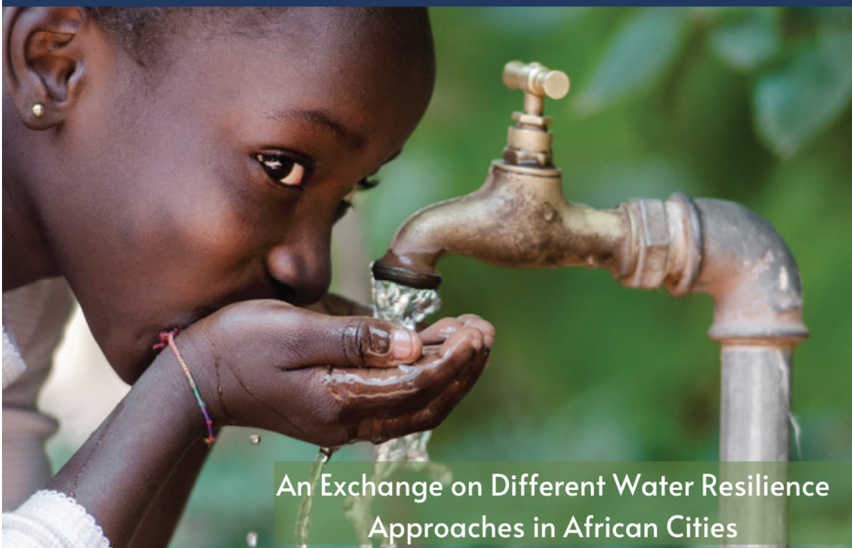
The multiple water-related challenges our cities face across the African continent threaten the intrinsic values that water offers to millions of people. Rapid population growth and unplanned urbanisation, poverty and inequality, unmanaged informality, coupled with infrastructure backlogs, lack of maintenance, inadequate financing, and limited future planning all impact the quantity and quality of water that is available for various socio-economic needs.

Layered on top of these challenges are the impacts of climate change, the effects of waste, pollution, and overuse on water sources, which in turn have an impact on human health, food security, and energy supplies, all resulting in weakened ecological and social systems which sustain cities and the environment. All of these challenges call for new and different approaches to water resilience and security on the continent.

A systems approach is needed to address urban water resilience, and this includes governance, planning, and finance systems along with the physical systems that need to be redesigned to continually adapt to emerging risks. To support cities in their efforts towards water resilience, over the past four years, the SACN and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), together with their partners, the GIZ's Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuReS), and the USAID WASH-FIN Program, have collaborated on a host of strategic learning exchanges between city water managers as well as government and development partners active in the water sector. These events are organised around a specific theme identified by practitioners in preceding events.

WATER RESILIENT CITIES
LEARNING EVENT

14 DECEMBER 2021
10:00AM - 1:00PM (SAST)



An Exchange on Different Water Resilience Approaches in African Cities

Brought to you by:
South African CitiesNetwork

SALGA
Leading service delivery

NatuReS
Natural Resources Stewardship Programme

GIZ
German Development Cooperation

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WRI
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES

To end off 2021, the partners, joined this year by the World Resources Institute (WRI), convened the fourth instalment of the Water Resilient Cities series of learning events on 14 December 2021. The Cities of Johannesburg, Mbombela, eThekweni, Lusaka, Kigali, and Addis Ababa were brought together to share their perspectives and experiences with water resilience approaches.



Republic of Rwanda
City of Kigali



The learning event was kick-started by **Professor Mike Muller**, who is a visiting Adjunct Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Governance. He provided the key-note input highlighting the key governance questions that cities must respond to if they are to fully address water security and resilience challenges in a systemic way.

Pointing out that the South African cities' water crises are not about water, Prof. Muller provided the following six key reasons why SA Cities are in crisis mode:

- Problems largely due to failed socio-political processes
- Delayed and flawed decision-making
- User behaviour not challenged
- Distractions from core business
- Vision limited to city boundaries
- Weak technical management, with limited influence on decisions



He suggested the following first actions needed by city water managers if service delivery objectives and resilience imperatives are to be addressed and sustained.

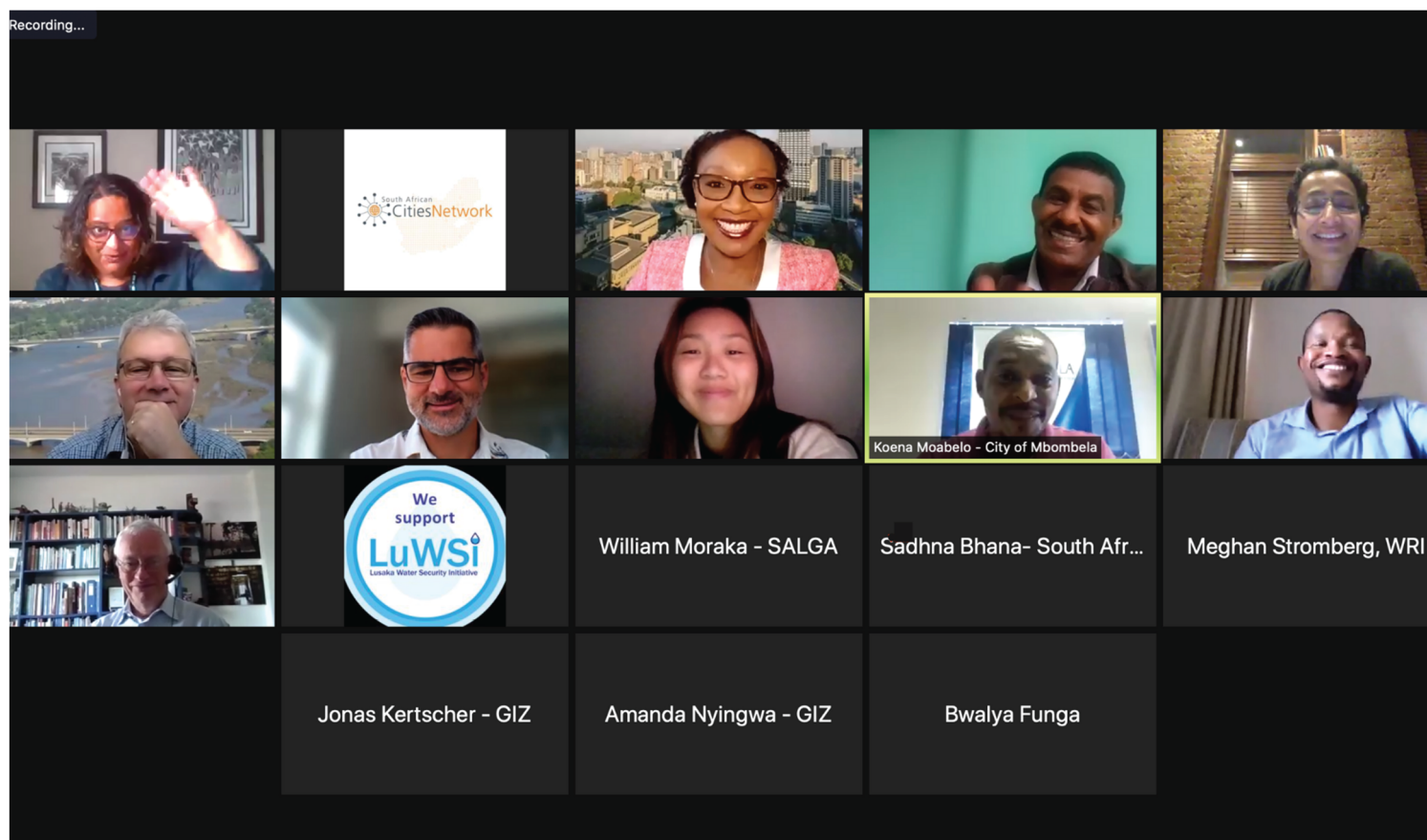
- Liaise with national water planners to agree on who must do what next, when, and how will it be funded.
- Fix leaks, bill correctly, and tell users what is planned - to build citizens' confidence, trust, and support.
- Brief mayoral committee (again) on 5-year water security strategy.
- Clean the stormwater drains and visit the sewage works - remind operating staff that they are the frontline of a city's water security.
- Check water organisations' succession plans - to ensure continuity of capabilities and strategy.

This scene-setting presentation was followed by a session-themed South African Cities in Action which featured the cities of Johannesburg, Mbombela, and eThekweni. The Principal Specialist: Water Services Regulation and Policy Development at the City of Johannesburg, Ondela Tywakadi, outlined the process being followed in developing the City's Water Security Strategy; the Senior Engineering Technician at the City of Mbombela, Koena Moabelo, focused on the implementation of the Water Conservation and Water Demand Management Strategy of the city; while Geoff Tooley, the Senior Manager: Catchment Management at eThekweni gave an overview of the Business Case for the City's Transformative Riverine Management Programme.

Session 2 was led by Lusaka City Council's Senior Planner, Bwalya Funga, who spoke of the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in water security and how such partnerships can help institutionalise water governance, empower communities, ensure the protection of wetlands and promote the stewardship of natural resources. The approaches to urban water resilience in the City of Kigali were discussed by the City's Chief Resilience Officer, Japheth Habinshuti, while the Chief Resilience Officer in the City of Addis Ababa, Dr. Moges Tadesse spoke of similar approaches in Addis Ababa and explained how the city identified the most pressing shocks and stresses and carved out actions to address those.



SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT CITIES



In the last session, themed Financing for Resilience, Chris Serjak from the USAID WASH-FIN program highlighted some of the lessons learnt through the implementation of their projects. These lessons ranged from creating an enabling environment for financing as a prerequisite for private investment in water and sanitation projects to the need for cities to invest in energy efficiency and energy transition for the water and sanitation sector.

Wrapping up the proceedings, Dr. Faith Lawrence, Country Coordinator of the GIZ's Natural Resources Stewardship Programme (NatuRes) reflected on the journey that the partners have been on for the past four years and the collaborations that have taken place with other development agencies and city support networks along the way. She emphasised the need for continued knowledge exchange among cities in building water resilience across the continent.

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In Partnership with:



WELL-GOVERNED CITIES

An independent strategic review of SACN's work for the period 2016–21 provided vital insights into the performance of SACN and the local government environment within which the organisation operates, as well as strategic foresight on crucial local and global trends.

The review's recommendations for the well-governed cities programme of work were to:

- Rethink the current local government model, structures, and systems given the shift to wards multiparty coalition governance.
- Rethink the current municipal funding model and explore a sustainable municipal funding model.
- Develop state capability at local government level, focusing on the political-administrative interface and intergovernmental cooperation.

Unlike the other programmes at SACN, the well-governed cities programme has not had a peer-learning platform that meets regularly to facilitate dialogue and shared learning among cities around either urban governance or municipal finance.

As a result, despite the organisations pivot to knowledge application during the 2021-26 strategic cycle, this was not adequately addressed. In addition, the flux and change in the sector evident since 2016, evidenced in coalition governments and political and administrative instability, has meant getting the focused attention of senior political and administrative leadership has been difficult. Hence the embedded engagement with cities that kicks off SACN's new 2021 – 26 strategic cycle is of critical importance.

The first goal of the engagement with the participating cities in the SACN is a review of the status of urban governance and municipal finance in each city from city leadership, and all of the society stakeholders. We are also focusing on strengthening existing relationships with city leadership and building new relationships to get a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges that exist. This will inform the development of a programme of action and projects with uptake at the city level for the coming years.

WELL-GOVERNED CITIES

The results of the local government elections that were held on November 1st have major implications for research in the well-governed cities programme. The last local government elections in 2016 resulted for the first time, in coalition governments in Nelson Mandela Bay, the City of Tshwane, and the City of Johannesburg. The resultant political instability in these cities, which saw mayoral changes and tensions in the political-administrative interface added a new dimension to the governance research agenda. The recent elections have confirmed that the events of 2016 were not a once-off and coalition governments are likely to remain a feature of big-city government.

This quarter the programme has been working on two papers in this regard: the first a paper analysing the experience of a coalition government in Ekurhuleni, Joburg, Nelson Mandela Bay, and Tshwane 2016 – 2021; and the second a SACN position paper on coalition governments offering insights and advice to mitigate the impact on institutional performance seen in some cities.



Executive Mayor, Cllr Xola Pakati

Cllr Xola Pakati is the Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metro Municipality which encompasses East London, King William's Town, and surrounding areas. He has been instrumental in leading ongoing substantive change and institutional transformation in the city through effective leadership and guidance to municipal officials.

Previously he served as the Deputy Executive Mayor of the City where he was assigned the responsibility of leading the process towards the development of the City's first-ever long-term plan, the Metro Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) Vision 2030. The MGDS has now been adopted by the council and it is seamlessly being implemented through the annually reviewed five-year Integrated Development Planning process.

Before joining the metro, Councillor Pakati was the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs at the Eastern Cape Legislature. His responsibilities during this period were to provide overall strategic oversight to the Department of Economic Development, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA), COEGA Development Corporation (CDC), Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), Eastern Cape Gambling and Betting Board (ECGGB), Eastern Cape Liquor Board (ECLB) and the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ).

He served 23 years in the leadership ranks of the trade union movement and in seven of these years, he was the Provincial Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in the Eastern Cape. He was the first Deputy President of the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) after its formation in 2000. He is a dedicated political activist currently serving as the Chairperson of the ANC in Dr. WB Rubusana Region.



Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality: Mayoral Committee - [click here](#)

CITY FOCUS

Meet your Mayors



Executive Mayor, Cllr Ald Tania Campbell

Cllr Ald Tania Campbell is a life-long resident of the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE) and is passionate about making a difference in the city she calls home. From a young age, Mayor Campbell has been a community activist and advocate for social justice. Mayor Campbell was a learner at Hoërskool Goudrif before completing her matric at the Germiston Technical College. She went on to study at the University of Pretoria - completing courses in Human Rights and an Executive Leadership Municipal Programme.

Ald Campbell has completed various SALGA courses on the Budget, IDP, SDBIP, and Performance Management as well as Ethics and Integrity International. Her political career started in 1997 when she joined the Democratic Alliance (DA). She was sworn in as a councillor of the DA during the establishment of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality in 2000. Over the past 20 years, Mayor Campbell has accumulated a wealth of experience in public management and governance through her service in Council. She has served on various oversight committees during her illustrious career and was bestowed with 'Alderwomanship' in 2016, for recognition of her years of service.

Mayor Campbell has served in various leadership roles in the Democratic Alliance and is a member of the DA Federal Council. On 22 November 2021, she was sworn in as the fifth Executive Mayor of the City of Ekurhuleni during the sitting of a special council meeting. The first citizen aims to bring a performance-focused approach to create more efficient and responsive service delivery. Mayor Campbell's signature priorities for the City are to increase expenditure on energy infrastructure to stabilise the City's power grid, to prevent electricity disruptions. Furthermore, she will ramp up service delivery to attract much-needed investment into the City and stimulate job opportunities for our people who call Ekurhuleni home. Mayor Campbell enjoys spending time with her extended family and close friends. In her spare time, she is an avid reader.

City of Ekurhuleni: Mayoral Committee - [click here](#)



CITY FOCUS

Meet your Mayors



Executive Mayor, Cllr Mpho Phalatse

In 2005, Mpho became qualified as a medical doctor and started an internship at Tembisa Hospital. This was followed by community service in Hammanskraal, where she offered services at Jubilee Hospital as well as various clinics within the area. During her community service year, Mpho enrolled for project Management Studies through Cranefield College and now holds an advanced diploma and postgraduate diploma in Project Management and Programme Management.

Mpho is also a Certified Independent Medical Examiner (CIME) with the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME). Mpho spent the next six years of her career exploring

service delivery models in different contexts such as mining houses and proceeded to register her own company, rendering disability consulting services to SASSA in both Gauteng and the North-West. Seeing abject poverty in underdeveloped villages in the North-West drove Mpho to suspend her business and return to Gauteng to acquire further skills, registering for an MMed in Public Health Medicine at Wits University in 2011 – a move which would see her settling in the City of Johannesburg. Mpho went on to work as a casualty officer at the Alexandra Community Health Centre, and as a sexual assault care practitioner at the Far East Rand Hospital in Springs, while also serving on the Professional Conduct Committee of the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

She was appointed MMC Health and Social Development in 2016. As MMC, Mpho championed the extension of service hours in clinics, as well as the City's multipronged substance abuse prevention and treatment strategy, among many other achievements. Mpho's pull to politics came at the Alex Clinic where the living conditions of the community translated into ongoing public health challenges in a vicious cycle which required principled government leadership. During the lockdown, she started a career in corporate coaching through the Global Institute for Organizational Coaching – a skill she has been using to mentor and coach young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

City of Johannesburg: Mayoral Committee - [click here](#)

CITY FOCUS

Meet your Mayors



Executive Mayor, Cllr Randall Williams

Cllr Randall Williams is a long-standing councillor, and seasoned politician, was elected as the Executive Mayor of Tshwane on 30 October 2020. Williams was born on the Cape Flats in Cape Town.

He holds a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in International Investment and Trade Law from Stellenbosch University and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of South Africa (UNISA). Previously, Williams served as the MMC for Economic Development and Spatial Planning and as the Chairperson of the Municipal Appeals Tribunal from 2016 to 2019. Before being elected to the City of Tshwane Council, he worked for the Department of Trade and Industry in the International Trade and Economic Development Unit as Chief Director: Trade Policy and Negotiations and was a member of the Companies Tribunal.



City of Tshwane: Mayoral Committee - [click here](#)

Mayor, Cllr Mxolisi Kaunda

Cllr Mxolisi Kaunda has a rich socio-political activism background. Over the years he has distinguished himself as a committed cadre of the African National Congress. He (Kaunda) has served in various leadership roles in both the ANC Youth League and Provincial structures.

Born in iNanda north of Durban, he gained political consciousness early and became active from the tender age of 15. He was involved in student politics and youth political activism during the hard days of violence. Cllr Kaunda obtained his Diploma in Governance and Leadership from the University of South Africa and an Advanced Diploma in Advanced Governance and Public Leadership from the University of Witwatersrand. From 2000-2006, Kaunda served as a Ward 57 Councillor in Inanda.



From 2006-2009, he was Proportional Representation Councillor in eThekweni Municipality and served in various council portfolios such as the Economic Development and Planning Sub-Committee and Market Adhoc Committee. In 2004-2008 he served as ANCYL Provincial Secretary, In 2008-2010 he serves as ANCYL Provincial Chairperson. In 2012 he was elected to the ANC Provincial Executive Committee (ANC PEC), he was assigned the responsibility of serving in the Economic Transformation as well as Peace and Stability sub-committees. In 2018, he was re-elected to the ANC PEC and serves as Chairperson of the Economic Transformation Committee. From 2009 to 2014 he served as a member of the Provincial Legislature and was Chairperson of the Transport Portfolio Committee. During this time, he served on Finance, Community Safety, and Liaison as well as the Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Committee as an alternate member.

Post the 2014 National General Elections, he resumed his role in the Provincial Legislature as a Chairperson of the Transport Committee; and He served on the Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, as well as Community Safety and Liaison committees. In 2016, he was appointed as the MEC for Transport, Community Safety, and Liaison. After the 2019 General Elections, Kaunda was reappointed to the same portfolio until he was redeployed to eThekweni Metro as the Mayor. In the Provincial Executive Council (Cabinet),

CITY FOCUS

Meet your Mayors



Kaunda chaired the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS) and the Public Protests sub-Committee. He also Co-Chaired the Multi-Party Political Intervention Committee which is responsible for promoting political tolerance among political parties in the province.



eThekweni Municipality: Mayoral Committee - [click here](#)

Executive Mayor of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Councillor Mxolisi Siyonzana

Mxolisi Siyonzana is not new to the Council of Mangaung. He has served residents of the City for a lengthy period in various leadership positions. After joining the Mangaung Local Municipality Council in 2002 as PR Councillor, he occupied the seats of Chief Whip (2003 – 2006), Acting Speaker (2004-2006), and Deputy Executive Mayor (2006-2008). Before ascending to Executive Mayor, he presided over Council as Speaker between 2016 and 2021.

He began his political career in student politics, where he once served as an organiser for the Congress of South African Students in Colesberg. This was one of several involvements in student politics, which included being an additional member instrumental in organising lawyers for Colesberg Youth Congress members from 1986 - 1989 and as a member of SASCO Hillside View.



These positions were the start of an illustrious political career. Councillor Siyonzana prides himself on leading the team that facilitated the separation of powers and delegations between Centlec as an entity and Mangaung as a parent municipality. He went a bit further with this project and later completed a Master of Commerce in Leadership with the University of Kwa Zulu Natal in 2016. During his tenure as Council Speaker, he also led his office in deepening and energising participatory public democracy in the Metro as speaker of the council and its IDP processes.

Executive Mayor Siyonzana is on a mission to bring together civil society, councillors, local businesses, labour, traditional leaders, religious organisations, and communities to address service delivery and build a local economy that creates jobs and sustains businesses.

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality: Mayoral Committee - [click here](#)



Executive Mayor, Cllr Eugene Johnson

With the dawn of democracy, Johnson joined the ANC and became involved in the regional structures of the organisation. She served as branch chairperson of Ward 7 and cluster co-ordinator of ANC branches in the northern areas of Gqeberha.

Between 2001 and 2009, Johnson served on the ANC Nelson Mandela Regional Executive Committee. In 2010 she was elected to the National Executive Committee of the South African National Civic Organisation and served in the ANC Eastern Cape Provincial Women's League from 2015 to 2018. Johnson had an impressive stint in local and national government between

2005 and 2016. She was elected to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipal Council in 2005. After leaving the council in 2010, Johnson would go on to join Statistics South Africa in its census program and serve on the National Economic Development and Labour Council of South Africa.

In 2016 she was an aid in the Office of the ANC Parliamentary Chief Whip. Between 2017 and 2020, Johnson would put her experience in governance and administration to use as an entrepreneur, consultant, and corporate governance expert. She worked as a consultant for the Swedish-backed NGO, The Ubutyebi Trust, setting up a new human settlements program in Nelson Mandela Bay, and served as chairperson of the Donkin Hospital Board and the Gelvandale Frail Care Board.

Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality: Mayoral Committee - [click here](#)

TEAM NEWS & EVENTS



Introducing a new member to the SACN Team

Lwazi Sikiti is the new Programme Manager: Policy Research and Advocacy. He is responsible for driving the research agenda of SACN while keeping the focus of the organisation and its member cities on the shifts in the complex policy landscape as it affects the business of local government.

Lwazi brings a vast set of skills and experience in urban planning, international relations, local economic development, stakeholder relations, and applied research.





TEAM NEWS & EVENTS



THE REBUILT CITY

Rising from crises of emergency governance
to a more sustainable and resilient future

Urban 20
Festival 21

The theme of The Rebuilt City: Rising from crises of emergency governance to a more sustainable and resilient future was born from a desire to provide urban actors with suitable frameworks, knowledge, and resources to navigate the new world of emergency governance. We would like to call for an all-of-society action programme and provide urban actors with actionable information and resources to navigate the new world of emergency governance. Beyond the Urban Festival, the goal is to inform responses to grand challenges, which are increasingly framed as complex emergencies and include above all pandemics and climate change.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on all aspects of daily life and revealed serious systemic risks for cities. It has exposed frailties in local economies, finances, health response and planning; a chasm between city governments and their citizens; and inadequate risk management and crisis planning by cities. At the same time, on a more positive note, COVID-19 has forced a rethinking of city governance to reset, recalibrate and

build back better. The future of the planet depends on the collective action of governments, cities, and communities. Cities are on the front line of climate change impact and must be at the heart of climate action. We need to inspire local climate action based on scientific research and business engagement. The least well-off in cities and communities will bear the brunt of climate change in the form of floods, landslides, and extreme heat. The fight will be won or lost in cities and towns. More than 1 billion people are living in informal settlements with 70 percent highly vulnerable to climate change --a poverty multiplier that will trap the poor further without a pro-poor approach to planning, building, and managing cities. The health and economic impacts of COVID-19, climate change, and inequality are linked. COVID-19 recovery is an opportunity to rethink urban living. The second edition of the Urban

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festival has included rigorous engagements aimed at accelerating the urban agenda and activating all of society to get involved in rebuilding our cities more sustainably.

For one month, South Africa was in a conversation about the future of our cities. Everyday citizens, expressed their hopes, dreams, and needs. We hosted 22 virtual events over five days and participants joined in from 118 cities globally. The festival demonstrated the power of citizens' voices and the importance of bringing everyone together to contribute. We encourage everyone to continue using this platform as a place of convergence of minds, as we manoeuvre through the uncharted waters of multiple crises in our cities. We encourage you all to continue to actively put forth your voices towards common solutions and practices.

Some of the Key-findings from the 3-day event included:

- Reframing, recovering, and rebuilding
- Re-thinking entire city systems
- Context-specific visions
- The public as a key driver for a human recovery
- Finding a space for culture
- New styles of leadership for cities in emergency
- Catalysing change with micro-grants

At a time of great uncertainty, it was wonderful to see the energy, creativity, and drive that exists in people to champion development. The ability of the Urban Festival to foster open dialogue and engagement is worth celebrating.

We would like to thank representatives from government departments, the private sector, academia, civil society, and interest groups for joining these important conversations and lending their voices. Attaining more sustainable and resilient cities is a collaborative endeavour, let us continue to invite different voices and urban actors to help build back better cities.



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