



Local Governments as agents of Reconciliation and Nation-Building

As the level of government closest to communities, local councils are well-placed to promote efforts for reconciliation and nation-building.

Before South Africa's advent to democracy, racial discrimination in service delivery and spatial segregation were some of the defining features of the local government system.

When the process of democracy started, particularly at the local government level, municipalities became crucial agents of transformation in the rebuilding of local communities and environments as the basis for a democratic, integrated and truly non-racial society.

This goal of local government transformation was directed at removing the racial basis of government and making it a tool for societal integration and the redistribution of municipal services from the well-off to the poor.

When the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 finally recognised South Africa as a sovereign democratic state grounded in the principles of human rights, freedom and non-racialism, local governments were also recognised as key role-players in the promotion of national unity, social cohesion and reconciliation, Constitutional democracy, human rights, and equality.

Among the accomplishments of this transformation are the increased numbers of people who now have access to municipal services that many of them did not previously have as well as the creation of livable and socially integrated cities and towns.

It is against this background that the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), as the national voice of the country's 257 local councils, joins hand-in-hand with government, non-governmental organisations, corporate bodies

and civil society to celebrate Reconciliation Month by reigniting the fire of determination to see the unfinished business of reconciliation and nation-building through.

SALGA National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting

From 13-14 December 2022, the SALGA National Executive Committee (NEC) joined together with its member municipalities from the North West province to advance solutions for critical challenges confronting local councils and their communities and for SALGA to address internal organisational matters, emerging issues, and priorities.

South African Local Government Bargaining Council (SALGBC) turns 20 this year.

The SALGBC, composed of SALGA as an employer body and trade unions IMATU and SAMWU, representing employees in the country's 257 municipalities, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on 3 December 2022 at the Emperors Palace in Ekurhuleni.

In the SALGBC, SALGA and the trade unions are responsible for negotiating conditions of service and matters of mutual interest, which culminate in collective agreements that become binding on the members of SALGA, on the one hand, and members of SAMWU and IMATU, on the other.

SALGA and the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) Integrated Waste Management, Knowledge Management and Lessons Learned Workshop.

Municipal officials, local economic development, climate change and urban thought leaders from intermediary cities will gather from 6-7 December 2022 at the Southern Sun Hotel in Ekurhuleni for a workshop on lessons learned from a SALGA and the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) City-to-City Cooperation partnership on Integrated Waste Management.

Commemorative events.

- World AIDS Day is commemorated each year on the 1st of December and is an opportunity for every community to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV and remember those who have died.
- South Africa celebrates National Disability Rights Awareness Month annually between 3 November and 3 December. Disability is the consequence of an impairment that may be physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, developmental, or some combination of these, and Disability Awareness Month offers an opportunity for all of us to remove these barriers and to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities through concrete action.
- International Anti-Corruption Day is commemorated annually on 9 December. This day provides an opportunity for political leaders, governments, legal bodies and lobby groups to join forces against corruption.
- International Human Rights Day is marked every year on 10 December with activities led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- In South Africa, Human Rights Day is commemorated annually on 21 March to remind South Africans about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 18 December International Migrants Day on 4 December 2000. The International convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families was adopted on 18 December 1990 (Resolution 45/158).

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#LocalGovTodayEveryday and

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www.salga.org.za and all our

social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.