

WWW.SALGA.ORG.ZA



# Public Service Month

## A duty of service to people and communities.

Now more than ever, trust and confidence in the public service needs to be restored by public servants putting into practice values such as transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and humility.

Such values reinforce the mission of South Africa's public service and help define its identity. For far too long, the image of the country's public service at local, provincial, and national level, has been associated with laziness, incompetence, and corruption, and this needs to be changed.

More so at the local level of government, where the municipal workforce has an opportunity to impact the lives of people and communities in the most direct way given the nature of their operations.

Public servants, at all levels of government, owe a duty of service to people and communities and need to serve their needs with competence, excellence, and efficiency.

The upcoming SALGA Council of Mayors (SCoM), taking place during Public Service Month, will seek to revive the true spirit of public service.

Mayors, local government representatives and representatives of provincial and national government will gather at the East London International Convention Centre (ICC) in Buffalo City Municipality from 8-9 September 2022, to discuss a range of issues related to municipal governance and service delivery.

It is against this background that SALGA joins hand-in-hand with all branches of local, provincial and national government along with key players from business and non-governmental agencies, in renewing the commitment to the fundamental values of integrity, responsiveness, accountability and excellence that guide the work of the public service.

### Local Government Week

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid- 19 pandemic, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Local Government Week, returns in September.

From September 13-15, Parliamentarians, senior members of the national and provincial SALGA leadership, national Cabinet and Provincial Executive Councils, Mayors of selected metropolitan, district

and local municipalities, the Auditor-General, independent analysts and strategic entities, will gather in Cape Town to reflect on a range of issues affecting local government and to seek solutions to those challenges in order to create better lives and communities throughout the country.

SALGA National Executive Committee (NEC) sitting and engagement with municipalities in the Western Cape.

The SALGA NEC will be meeting with Mayors, Speakers, Whips of Council, Municipal Managers and Chief Financial Officers from municipalities in the Western Cape province in George from 21-22 September.

The meeting forms part of a SALGA NEC decision to have regular interaction with its member municipalities on the challenges and opportunities they face as a means to incorporate them in decision-making processes to address them.

### **Commemorative events**

- Heritage Month is celebrated annually in September. It is celebrated to mark our nation's diverse culture and heritage. Government calls on all South Africans to use Heritage Month to foster greater social cohesion, nation building and a shared national identity.
- Tourism Month is celebrated annually in September and provides a heightened month-long focus on the importance of the sector to the South African economy.

This global observance day aims to foster awareness of tourism's social, cultural, political, and economic value and the contribution that the sector can make towards reaching the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

Tourism Month encourages South Africans to travel domestically to sustain jobs and support the recovery of tourism in line with the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan.

- September marks Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Although childhood cancer is relatively rare, the incidence rate has been increasing. According to a 2014 report by the American Cancer Society, it is now estimated that one in 408 children worldwide will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 15.

Yet with early detection and treatment in paediatric oncology units, globally the survival rate can be as high as between 70% and 80%, with variance depending on the type of cancer.

- For over 40 years now, UNESCO has been celebrating International Literacy Day on 8 September by reminding the international community that literacy is a human right and the foundation of all learning. Literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to four billion literate people in the world.

However, literacy for all – children, youth and adults – is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever-moving target.

- On 15 September, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and parliaments around the world celebrate the International Day of Democracy, declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007.

The International Day of Democracy is meant both to celebrate democracy and to serve as a reminder that the need to promote and protect democracy is as urgent now as ever.

- International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer on 15 September, commemorates the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (resolution 49/114).

The principal aim of the Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer by taking measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it, with the ultimate objective of their elimination based on developments in scientific knowledge and technological information.

- Each year on 21 September, the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The United Nations Member States adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 because they understood that it would not be possible to build a peaceful world if steps were not taken to achieve economic and social development for all people every-where, and ensure that their rights were protected.

- Environmental Health Day on 26 September addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments.

### **Follow hashtag:**

*#InspiringServiceDelivery and look out for more activities planned for the 20 Years of Democratic Local Government on the SALGA website: [www.salga.org.za](http://www.salga.org.za) and all our social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.*

*Also, be sure to tune into Kasi2Kasi, the television component of SALGA's Asisho Let's Say It! campaign, which takes viewers on a deep dive into how municipalities are intimately connected to people's everyday hopes and challenges.*

*Anchored by media professional, Ayanda Allie, Kasi2Kasi airs every Friday on SABC 1 @ 4:30 pm.*

