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2026 | PROGRAMME

6TH SALGA NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEGAL PRACTITIONERS' FORUM (NMLPF)

12 - 13 MARCH 2026

HYBRID EVENT: *City of Cape Town Council Chambers,
12 Hertzog Boulevard, Cape Town*

Theme: *"Empowering Municipal Legal Practitioners as
Drivers of Ethical Leadership, Compliance and Service
Delivery Excellence in Strengthening Legal Governance
within the Local Government Sector."*



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**"AT SALGA WE DON'T DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE ITS OUR JOB, IT IS OUR
COMMITMENT TO OUR MUNICIPALITIES AND COMMUNITIES"**

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

The National Municipal Legal Practitioners Forum (NMLPF) scheduled to take place held from 12 - 13 March 2026, demonstrates the importance of establishing a strategic national platform, under the auspices of SALGA, for Municipal Legal Practitioners to share knowledge, case law, best practices and case studies in response to complex legal challenges and ongoing litigation faced by various municipalities and the local government sector at large.

The express aim of the forum, amongst others, is to provide updates on key emerging legal matters affecting local government, draw on the collective experience and lessons learned by various municipalities in dealing with intricate legal cases and for municipalities to provide technical input into SALGA's policy and legislative proposals, advocacy agenda and legal strategy on matters of common interest. The outcomes report of the forum will be used to develop SALGA's annual action plan and support programme for the municipalities, whether in terms of the lobbying agenda, generic support, and/or hands-on support.

To date, five NMLPF events have been successfully convened with a wide range of participants from the legal fraternity in government and the private sector.

The theme for the 6th iteration of the forum, ***"Empowering Municipal Legal Practitioners as Drivers of Ethical Leadership, Compliance and Service Delivery Excellence in Strengthening Legal Governance within the Local Government Sector"***, aims to elevate the importance and strategic role of Municipal Legal Practitioners in relation to promoting good governance and service delivery. It is, therefore, imperative that municipalities continue to capacitate and support the legal services departments to improve operational efficiencies and help reduce the number of litigations against municipalities.

Again, SALGA has on several occasions defended the interests of local government in various courts. This is part of SALGA's value add services to municipalities and this approach allows SALGA to defend all municipalities simultaneously instead of each municipality responding to litigations individually. To this end, the forum presents an opportunity for SALGA to share information on litigation affecting local government.

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DAY 1

THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2026

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR:

Mr Vuyo Mvoko: *Journalist, Broadcaster & Political Commentator – Newzroom Afrika*

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
07h00 - 08h45	Arrival & Registration, City of Cape Town Council Chambers	
09h00 - 09h30	Official Opening of the Programme	Programme Director
SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE		
09h30 - 09h50	Welcoming of Delegates to the City of Cape Town	Alderman Eddie Andrews: <i>Deputy Executive Mayor – City of Cape Town</i>
09h50 - 10h25	Opening Remarks for the 6th Annual National Municipal Legal Practitioners Forum	Cllr Bheke Stofile: <i>President – SALGA</i>
10h30 - 11h00	Keynote address: Strengthening State Legal Capacity & Justice Delivery Through Litigation Management and Law Reform	Honourable Mmamoloko Kubayi: <i>Minister - Justice & Constitutional Development</i>
SESSION 2: REVIEW OF THE WHITE PAPER ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS		
11h00 - 11h50	PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: Review of the White Paper on Local Government A Comprehensive and in-depth engagement on the Review of the White Paper on Local Government, examining the key issues and proposed changes within the White Paper thereby creating a platform for robust discussion and input from all stakeholders.	FACILITATOR: Mr Vuyo Mvoko: <i>Programme Director</i> Mr Mbulelo Tshangana: <i>Director General - Department of Cooperative Governance</i>
11h50 - 12h00	Questions and Answers	All

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TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
12h00 - 12h15	MID-MORNING BREAK	
12h15 - 12h45	SALGA Support to Municipalities on Transitional Arrangements Pre, During and Post Local Government Elections inclusive of Preparations for the Integrated Councillor Induction Programme	<p>PRESENTERS:</p> <p>Mr Lance Joel: <i>Chief Officer: IGR & Municipal Resilience - SALGA</i></p> <p>Ms Mercia Colbert: <i>Senior Advisor Municipal Learning & Development - SALGA</i></p>
12h45 - 12h55	Questions and Answers	All
12h55 - 13h15	<p>Update on the Upper -Limits Amendment and its Implications for the Local Government Sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for Councillors • Direct implications for Senior Managers and Managers reporting directly to the City Manager 	<p>PRESENTER:</p> <p>Dr Kevin Naidoo: <i>Deputy Director General - Department of Cooperative Governance</i></p> <p>Ms Nakedi Monyela: <i>Director Municipal Human Resource Systems - Department of Cooperative Governance</i></p>
13h15 - 13h25	Questions and Answers	All
13h25 - 14h25	LUNCHBREAK (Lunch will be served in the Banquet Hall)	
SESSION 3: CURRENT INTERVENTIONS IN ADVANCING & UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
14h30 - 15h15	<p>PRESENTATION & PANEL DISCUSSION:</p> <p>Turning the Tide on Corruption and Maladministration in Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections on the current interventions and programs aimed at combating and prosecuting offenders participating alternatively benefitting from corruption in local government. • The role of municipal legal practitioners in supporting municipalities to deal with corruption and maladministration. • National Treasury's Exploration and Utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Public Procurement and Fraud Detection. 	<p>PRESENTER & MODERATOR:</p> <p>Mr Michael Chauke: <i>Specialist for Inclusive Governance & Councillor Welfare - SALGA</i></p> <p>PANELISTS:</p> <p>Mr Kris Dobie: <i>Senior Manager: Organisational Ethics- The Ethics Institute</i></p> <p>Dr Salomon Hoogenraad-Vermaak: <i>Head for Public Administration Ethics, Integrity and Disciplinary Technical Assistance Unit - DPSA</i></p>

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TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implications of the Public Administration Management Regulations for the Central Register, 2025. Personal Liability of Municipal Managers for fruitful and wasteful expenditure resulting in material irregularities. The implication of AGSA issuing a certificate of debt and the duty of the accounting officer to respond to such. 	<p>Mr Johann Mettler: <i>City Manager - City of Tshwane</i></p> <p>Mr Thabelo Kangale: <i>Deputy Business Unit Leader for Material Irregularity - Auditor-General of South Africa</i></p>
15h15 - 15h25	Questions and Answers	All
15h25 - 16h05	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Amendments to the Public Procurement Act 28 of 2024 aimed at Creating a Single, Transparent Regulatory Framework and Strengthening Anti-Corruption Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unpacking the new Public Procurement Act and its implications on Local Government. Constitutional Court applications challenging the validity of the amendments and the status/implementation of the provisions in Local Government. 	<p>FACILITATOR:</p> <p>Ms Umika Gopichund: <i>Senior Manager for Corporate Legal Services & HCCS - SALGA</i></p> <p>PRESENTERS:</p> <p>Mr Alfonso Page: <i>Manager for Procurement Law, Legal Services - City of Cape Town</i></p> <p>Ms Lelani van den Berg: <i>Senior Legal Advisor - Umngeni Local Municipality</i></p>
16h05 - 16h10	Questions and Answers	All
16h10 - 16h40	<p>PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Compliance of Municipalities with PAIA, POPI & BBBEE Legislation and Regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The pertinent compliance obligation of municipalities. The possible legal consequences for both accounting officers and other municipal officials for no adherence. The status compliance of municipalities and the available assistance from the office of the Information Regulator to municipalities. 	<p>PRESENTERS:</p> <p>Adv Makhwedi Makgopa-Madisa: <i>Senior Manager PAIA Compliance and Monitoring - Information Regulator of South Africa</i></p> <p>Mr Livhu Mukhithi: <i>BBBEE Advisor - Department of Trade and Industry & Competition</i></p>
16h40 - 16h45	Questions and Answers	All
16h45	CLOSURE OF DAY 1	
18h00 - 21h00	NETWORKING EVENT	

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DAY 2

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2026

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
08h30 - 08h45	Recap on Resolutions and Discussion Topics of Day 1	Programme Director
08h45 - 09h00	Opening Remarks of Day 2 The Role of SALGA during the Transitioning Process - Critical Yardsticks	Cllr. (Dr) Samkelo Janda: <i>Governance and Intergovernmental Relations National Working Group Chairperson - SALGA NEC</i>
09h05 - 09h30	Presentation: The Municipal Legal Advisor Guardrailing People-centric Service Delivery through Administrative Justice & Ethics	Prof Thuli Mandonsela: <i>Director of the Centre for Social Justice - Stellenbosch University; Former Public Protector</i>
09h30 - 09h40	AI as a valuable resource in Legal Research	Ms Parusha Bachan: <i>Group Product Manager - Lexis Nexis</i>

SESSION 4: UPATE ON LITIGATION CASES, PROBLEM PROPERTIES AND LEGISLATION AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

09h45 - 10h15	PRESENTATIONS : Update on Current Litigation in Relation to Cost of Supply Studies for Licensed Municipalities: 1. AfriForum NPC vs National Energy Regulator of South Africa & Fifteen Others (Including 192 Municipalities) Case Number :2024/061993 (SCA). 2. AfriForum NPC vs National Energy Regulator of South Africa & Fifteen Others (Including 192 Municipalities) Case Number 2025/137620 (North Gauteng High Court).	PRESENTERS: Mr Ndamulelo Mmolawa: <i>Senior Associate - H M Chaane Attorneys</i> Mr George Thomas: <i>Senior Manager External Legal Advisory Services - SALGA</i>
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TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
	<p>3. Status Update on the Compliance with the North Gauteng High Court Ruling in Relation to the Requirements of Licenced Municipalities on the submission of Cost of Supply Studies (COS)</p> <p>4. Update on the Minerals Council South Africa // South African Local Government Association & Others (Case No.:673/2025)</p>	<p>Ms Lerato Phasha: <i>Portfolio Head for Municipal Finance - SALGA</i></p> <p>Mr Siphon Nkosi: <i>Senior Associate - Lawtons Africa Inc Attorneys</i></p>
10h15 - 10h20	Questions and Answers	All
10h25 - 11h10	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Litigation and Regulatory Compliance matters Impacting the Local Government Sector</p> <p>1. Outcomes report for Municipal Consultative Legal Forum (MLCF) for 2024-2025 FY.</p> <p>2. The Role of Municipal Legal Departments & Practitioners to ensure Regulatory Compliance and Sustainable Service Delivery in Municipalities – an eThekweni Metropolitan Perspective</p> <p>3. The implications of the Constitutional Court Judgment in the Van Wyk and Others v Minister of Employment and Labour [2025] ZACC 20.</p>	<p>PRESENTERS:</p> <p>Mr Segala Malahlela: <i>Group Head Corporate and Legal Services - City of Joburg Metropolitan Municipality</i></p> <p>Mr Malusi Mhlongo: <i>Head of Legal Services - eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality</i></p> <p>Mr Johan Van Zyl: <i>Acting Senior Manager: Collective Bargaining & Labour Relations - SALGA</i></p>
11h10 - 11h30	MID-MORNING BREAK	

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TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
11h30 - 12h00	Presentation: City of Cape Town The implementation of problem buildings bylaw and how it is applied to prevent the degradation of both public and private buildings	PRESENTER: Mr Alfonso Page: <i>Manager for Procurement Law, Legal Services - City of Cape Town</i> Mr Xavier Erasmus: <i>Principal Legal Advisor – City of Cape Town</i>
12h00 - 12h05	Questions and Answers	All
SESSION 5: SHORT COURSES AND PROGRAMMES		
12h10 - 12h40	Collaborative Approach to Municipal Legal Practitioners Capacity Building Programme: 1. Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ & CD) service offering to municipalities. 2. The Role of the LPC (Legal Practice Council) in assisting Municipal Legal Practitioners to appear in Magistrate's Courts 3. Initiatives introduced by eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality to advance the appearance of Legal Practitioners in Magistrate's Courts in terms of Section 51 of the Attorney's Act.	PRESENTER: Ms Melissa Murray: <i>Rector of the Bridget Mabandla Justice College</i> Mr Sithembele Zenzile: <i>Legal Officer - Legal Practice Council</i> Mr Siyabulela Mfingwana: <i>Deputy Director for Litigation - eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality</i>
SESSION 6: SUPPORT AND CLOSURE		
12h40 - 12h50	Action Agenda for SALGA External Legal Services - <i>Support required by Municipal Legal Practitioners</i>	Mr George Thomas: <i>Senior Manager: External Legal Advisory Services</i>
12h50 - 13h00	Vote of thanks and Closure	Mr Lance Joel: <i>Chief Officer: IGR & Municipal Resilience</i>
13h00	LUNCH & DEPARTURE	

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SPEAKERS PROFILE



Mr Vuyo Mvoko: *Journalist, Broadcaster & Political Commentator – Newzroom Afrika*

Mr Vuyo Mvoko is a seasoned journalist and senior anchor at eNCA, co-hosting the prime-time Newsnight program. With 25 years of experience, including a decade at SABC as Group Political Editor and Contributing Editor, he has covered major political events and interviewed post-1994 South African Presidents and global leaders. Mr Mvoko holds BA and MA in Journalism and is also the 2016 co-recipient of the annual South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) Nat Nakasa Award. The award recognises a media practitioner who has shown integrity, commitment and courage in the course of doing their job. Starting his career at the Weekly Mail Weekly Mail newspaper (now Mail & Guardian), later worked with eTV, Business Day, The Herald, and Forbes Africa. A recipient of the 2016 Nat Nakasa Award, Mr Mvoko remains active in media training and community broadcasting initiatives.



Alderman Eddie Andrews: *Deputy Mayor – City of Cape Town*

Deputy Executive Mayor Eddie Andrews of Cape Town is a dynamic and forward thinking leader, driven by a commitment to sustainable development and the betterment of all residents. With a wealth of experience in public administration and community focused leadership, Eddie is dedicated to implementing strategic, innovative solutions that fuel economic growth, foster social inclusion, and enhance environmental resilience. His vision for Cape Town is one of opportunity and progress, with a strong focus on creating thriving communities, improving service delivery, and championing future focused initiatives. Eddie's leadership is defined by a collaborative spirit, an unwavering dedication to progress, and a deep commitment to building a more prosperous and equitable future for the city. Recognized for his dedication and impact, he was honoured as the City of Cape Town's Councillor of the Year in 2020. In 2021, he was sworn in as Executive Deputy Mayor and Mayoral Committee Member for Spatial Planning and Environment, where he has worked tirelessly to address spatial inequalities and promote inclusive economic growth.

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Cllr Bheke Stofile: *President – SALGA*

Cllr Bheke Stofile, elected President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) on March 4, 2022, is a committed leader both in South Africa and internationally. With a vision of placing SALGA at the core of the municipal movement, his leadership extends beyond national borders, reflected in his election as one of the five co-presidents of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) at the 7th World Congress in South Korea. Under Mr Stofile's guidance, SALGA hosted the UCLG Africa regional caucus, strengthening its position as one of the continent's mature associations. His success in obtaining the green light from his counterparts to run for UCLG co-presidency indicates his proactive approach and respect among peers.

A notable aspect of Mr Stofile's presidency is the Asisho initiative, which rejuvenates the social contract between local governments and citizens. With a "people first" approach, Asisho seeks to address critical municipal challenges and improve governance, as outlined in his contribution titled "ASISHO! LET'S SAY IT." As part of this initiative, SALGA is committed to working with underperforming municipalities to enhance financial management and service delivery. Mr Stofile's recognition by UCLG underlines his strong leadership characteristics, aligned with UCLG's mission of representing the voices of local municipalities. His election builds on SALGA's legacy of international leadership, following predecessors like Parks Tau and Thembisile Nkadimeng.

The election of Cllr Stofile at the SALGA National Conference in Cape Town was met with wide applause and support, particularly from municipalities, government, academic institutions, and local business stakeholders. The conference's theme, "Consolidating the role of local government in rebuilding local communities," resonates with his overall mission. Cllr Bheke Stofile's leadership marks a new era in local governance, emphasising collaboration, accountability, and a renewed commitment to citizen well-being. His global recognition and domestic achievements make him a pivotal figure in the ongoing dialogue on coalition governance and transformative service delivery.

Nkadimeng's multifaceted career, strong academic background, and unwavering dedication to public service make her an influential figure in South Africa's political landscape. Her contributions continue to impact the country's progress toward a more inclusive and prosperous society.

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Hon Mmamoloko Kubayi: *Minister of Justice & Constitutional Development*

Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi was appointed Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development in December 2024, following her tenure as Minister of Human Settlements. A Member of Parliament, she has held various ministerial positions, including Tourism, Science and Technology, Communications, and Energy. Ms Kubayi also acted as Minister of Health during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is the Chairperson of the ANC's Economic Transformation sub-committee and has contributed to strategic governance discussions globally, including as a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Sustainable Tourism. She holds a BA from the University of Johannesburg, a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management, and a Masters in Public and Development Management from Wits University. She has completed leadership programs at Harvard Business School and is currently pursuing a PhD in corporate governance. Minister Kubayi began her career in community development and financial services before transitioning to government, where she has played a crucial role in public administration and policy-making.



Mr Mbulelo Tshangana: *Director General (DG) – Department of Cooperative Governance*

Mr Tshangana is an accomplished executive manager who started his career as a Deputy Director: Municipal Finance Policy at the erstwhile Department of Provincial and Local Government in 1999. DG Tshangana has held several leadership positions in Local Government and the DBSA. Government Departments, of which a prominent In the Department of Human Settlements, Mr Tshangana held the positions of Deputy Director-General: Programme Management Unit in 2013 and was ultimately promoted to be the Director-General in 2016. At the same time he was appointed the Acting Director-General in the Department of Water and Sanitation whilst retaining his position at human settlements. The two Departments were under one Ministry at the time, a move he describes "as the biggest assignment of my life". In 2023, he joined the Department of Cooperative Governance as the Director-General where he plays a pivotal role in shaping national policies and strategies related to local government, intergovernmental relations, and cooperative governance. He oversees the implementation of key initiatives aimed at strengthening governance structures, promoting citizen participation, and ensuring efficient service delivery across all levels of government. Mr Tshangana holds a Masters of Arts in Population and Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands and an Honours Degree in Development Studies from the University of the Western Cape.

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Dr Kevin Naidoo: *Deputy Director General - Department of Cooperative Governance*

Dr Naidoo is a seasoned public servant with more than 36 years of experience in government, the majority of which he has spent in the Department of Cooperative Governance since 1998. He has played a significant role in the development of policy and legislation introduced at the inception of South Africa's new local government system in 2000, much of which remains in effect today. He currently serves as Deputy Director-General responsible for Policy, Governance and Administration, where he oversees the administration of key local government legislation, including the Demarcation, Structures and Systems Acts. His portfolio further encompasses Municipal Funding and Revenue Support, Municipal Governance, Development Planning, Municipal Administration and Capacity Building, as well as Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Reporting Systems. Dr Naidoo holds a PhD in Public Affairs from the University of Pretoria, obtained in 2008.



Mr Lance Joel: *Chief Officer: IGR & Municipal Resilience – SALGA*

Mr Lance Joel is the IGR, Governance and Municipal Resilience Cluster Chief Officer at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), leading key initiatives and differentiated support to all 257 municipalities in the areas of Inter-Governmental Relations, External Legal Services, Governance, Collective Bargaining and Municipal Human Resources matters. Lance has 24 years of experience in law and politics, municipal governance and has an astute knowledge and understanding of all local government legislation; as well as extensive experience in financial management, policy development and management, and corporate governance. Lance is an admitted Attorney, holds a BA (Law), LLB and Advanced Certificate in Legal Practice from the University of Cape Town, South Africa.



Ms Mercia Colbert: *Senior Advisor Municipal Learning & Development – SALGA*

Ms Mercia Colbert holds a Post Graduate Diploma in HRM, B Tech degree in HRM and a National Diploma in Occupationally Directed Education, Training and Development Practices (ODETDP). She has been working in local government for the last 28 years and has worked in municipalities for 8 years and SALGA for the last 20 years. Mercia has spent the last 20 years at SALGA specializing in project management and coordinating various capacity building programmes and have added value and specialist knowledge and skills in SALGA's strategic projects where she has been instrumental in the development and submission of funding proposals to various SETA's.



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Ms Nakedi Monyela: *Director Municipal Human Resource Systems - Department of Cooperative Governance*

Nakedi Monyela is a local government governance and municipal human resource systems specialist with nearly two decades of experience in municipal administration and regulatory reform. Nakedi holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and has contributed extensively to the development and implementation of legislative and regulatory frameworks that establish uniform standards for municipal staff systems in South Africa. Through work at both national and municipal level, Nakedi has gained deep expertise in municipal workforce governance, professionalisation of local government administration, and the implementation of transversal HR systems. This combined policy and operational experience provides a unique perspective on strengthening administrative capability and governance within municipalities.



Mr Michael Chauke: *Inclusive Governance and Councillor Welfare Specialist - SALGA*

Mr Michael Chauke is a skilled professional with a track record of accomplishments in the local government sector, with a particular emphasis on governance, leadership, and intergovernmental relations. Michael has interests in intergovernmental relations, municipal governance, public policy analysis, local government, and research. In his present position at SALGA, Michael works as a Specialist: Inclusive Governance and Councillor Welfare, where he represents local government interests at intergovernmental – and other forums, while assisting and advising municipalities on all issues pertaining to inclusive governance. Michael's work emphasizes the importance of effective governance systems and the professionalization of local government to ensure better service delivery and performance. Michael experience includes positions such as Chief Specialist: Programme Evaluation at the City of Ekurhuleni, Senior Advisor and Advisor at SALGA Mpumalanga and North West, respectively, and Assistant Director at CoGTA Gauteng, to mention a few. Michael obtained a Master of Public Administration from the University of Pretoria and is currently pursuing a Master of Development Policy and Practice at the University of Cape Town.

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Mr Kris Dobie: *Ethics Subject Matter Expert – The Ethics Institute*

Mr Kris Dobie is the Senior Manager for Organisational Ethics at The Ethics Institute (TEI), based in Pretoria. His areas of expertise include corruption prevention, conflict of interest management, and AI ethics. Since 2005, he has worked extensively with the South African Government on a range of policy initiatives, including the development of the South African Local Government Anti-Corruption Strategy and the Code for Ethical Leadership in Local Government. Kris has authored and co-authored several key publications, such as The South African Citizens' Bribery Survey, The Public Sector Ethics Survey, The Conflict of Interest Handbook (2023), and The Guidebook on Managing the Ethics of AI in Organisations (2025). He holds a degree in Landscape Architecture and an MPhil in Workplace Ethics (Cum Laude), both from the University of Pretoria.

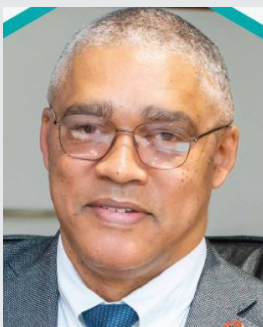


Dr Salomon Hoogenraad-Vermaak: *Head for Public Administration Ethics, Integrity and Disciplinary Technical Assistance Unit - DPSA*

Mr Salomon Hoogenraad-Vermaak is the Head of the Public Administration Ethics, Integrity and Disciplinary Technical Assistance Unit (a Chief Directorate in the Department of Public Service and Administration). This Unit, in terms of section 15 of the Public Administration Management Act, is mandated to: develop norms and standards on ethics, integrity, conduct and discipline management; to provide technical assistance in this regard; to build capacity around discipline management; to strengthen oversight on ethics, conduct and discipline management; and to promote and enhance good ethics and integrity. The current focus of the Unit is to implement lifestyle audits, to ensure financial declarations, to build capacity and to improve discipline management. Before joining the Department of Public Service and Administration, Salomon was a senior manager in the Integrity Management Unit of the National Prosecuting Authority. Prior to that, he was a counter intelligence officer in the South African National Defence Force, Military Intelligence (South African Military Health Service). He started his career as a teacher.

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Mr Johann Mettler: *City Manager - City of Tshwane*

Mr Johann Mettler, the City Manager of the City of Tshwane since 1 September 2022, is a seasoned administrator and expert in local government. He holds an LLM from Lund University in Sweden, along with an LLB and BProc from the University of the Western Cape. With experience spanning nearly three decades, Mettler's career began as a practising attorney before transitioning into public service. His work at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) from 1998 to 2003 saw him actively involved in legislative development and training for municipal officials, laying the groundwork for a robust career in municipal governance. Throughout his career, Mettler has led several municipalities, playing a key role in strategic planning, performance management, and intergovernmental relations.



Mr Thabelo Khangale: *Deputy Business Unit Leader: Material Irregularity - Auditor-General of South Africa*

Thabelo Khangale is by profession an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa and is currently the Business Unit leader of the Material Irregularity Business Unit. He is responsible for overseeing the enforcement of the Material irregularity processes in line with the Public Audit Act and the Material irregularity regulations. Prior to his current role, he was the Senior Manager responsible for legal support, overseeing the execution of the legal mandate for internal operational matters, strategic matters, and the legal support to the auditors during the audits conducted by the Auditor General South Africa. Thabelo has deep passion for corporate governance, and he believes that good corporate governance is at the heart of what goes right and wrong in any organisation. He is also a member of the Committee for Auditor Ethics within the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA), in addition, he also serves as a member and a legal advisor to the Tender Committee within the office Auditor General. Thabelo holds master's degree in corporate law specialising in corporate governance from the University of Pretoria. Before joining the office of Auditor General, he practised law as an Associate responsible for general litigation at reputable law firm in Pretoria.

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Ms Umika Gopichund: Senior Manager: Corporate Legal Services & HCCS – SALGA

Ms Umika Gopichund is a seasoned legal professional with over 25 years of experience in the legal industry. She is a qualified attorney specialising in legal compliance, corporate administration, and governance. She serves as a Managing Director of her own law firm and heads the legal and corporate services division at SALGA, overseeing contract management, compliance audits, litigation and administration matters. She holds a BA (Law) and an LLB (cum laude) and has received multiple awards for her contributions to compliance and governance. She has also obtained her status as a qualified Chartered Secretary by the Chartered Governance Institute of South Africa. She serves on the appeals committees and national consultative bodies, improving organisational legal frameworks. She has held several senior positions in both the private and public sector. Her work emphasizes practical solutions to legal challenges in highly regulated sectors.



Mr Alfonso Page: Manager: Procurement Law, Legal Services - City of Cape Town

Mr Alfonso Page is employed by the City of Cape Town as the Manager of the Procurement Law Unit in legal Services. He has over 13 years experience as a legal advisor in local government with a specialisation in public procurement and administrative law litigation. He holds a Masters Degree in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the University of Cape Town and has been involved in various procurement and administrative law precedent setting matters on behalf of the City of Cape Town.



Ms Lelani van den Berg: Senior Legal Advisor - Umngeni Local Municipality

Ms Lelani van den Berg is in possession of an LLB and is an admitted attorney in the High Court for 22 years. She is a full member of the Institute of Internal Auditors, Affiliate Member of the Certified Fraud Examiners Board, attended Harvard University during 2024 sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies – City Leadership Initiative. Lelani is currently busy with a Masters in Public Management. She has experience in all 3 spheres of Local Government and SARS in positions of Specialist Advisor and/or Senior Legal Advisor. Ms van den Berg is a Senior Legal Advisor at uMngeni Local Municipality in KZN, under the political leadership of the well-known Mayor, Chis Pappas.

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Adv Makhwedi Makgopa-Madisa: *Senior Manager PAIA Compliance and Monitoring - Information Regulator of South Africa*

Adv Makhwedi Makgopa-Madisa is a Legal Professional with over twenty years of experience in the provision of legal advisory services, regulatory compliance and enforcement. She is a Senior Manager with a strong record of driving operational excellence and leading cross functional teams to deliver high-impact results. She has worked for several government departments and entities. One of her career highlights is her contribution to the amendment of the Mental health Act in 2014/15 and the 2016 investigation into the deaths of mental health patients in Gauteng Province commonly known as the Life Esidimeni Report. Advocate Makgopa-Madisa is also a qualified Mediator, registered with Mediation in Motion. She is currently a Senior Manager: PAIA Compliance and Monitoring at the Information Regulator (South Africa) and has dealt with a number of high profile complaints related to non-compliance with the Promotion of Access to Information and/or refusal of access to information by various entities. She has in-depth and strong understanding of regulatory compliance, enforcement and complaints management.



Mr Livhu Mukhithi: *B-BBEE Advisor - Department of Trade, Industry and Competition*

Mr Stanford Livhuhani Mukhithi is a policy and economic development specialist with extensive experience in government, particularly in industrial policy, economic transformation, and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE). He previously served as Director: Cabinet and Parliamentary Services in the Department of Energy, where he provided strategic support to the Minister and engaged with key entities such as NERSA, the Central Energy Fund, and NECSA. He later joined the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), where he worked in the Office of the Deputy Minister and within Economic Research and Policy Coordination, contributing to initiatives such as the Black Industrialist Policy Framework and research on gas-based industrialisation. Currently, Mr Mukhithi leads a directorate responsible for B-BBEE policy and institutional management, providing technical and secretariat support to the Presidential B-BBEE Advisory Council and managing relations with institutions such as the National Empowerment Fund and the BEE Commission. His work focuses on advancing transformation initiatives, reviewing B-BBEE policies and legislation, and supporting the development of the Transformation Fund. He holds a Master's degree in Development Studies from Nelson Mandela University and is currently completing an MPhil in Industrial Policy at the University of Johannesburg.

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Cllr. (Dr) Samkelo Janda: *Governance and Intergovernmental Relations National Working Group Chairperson - SALGA NEC*

Dr Samkelo Janda is currently the Executive Mayor of Mbashe Local Municipality. Cllr Janda has held this position since 2016. Councillor Janda's involvement and experience in the Local Government Sector goes back as far as 1995. He holds two Master's degrees and in 2025 completed his Doctorate in philosophy with the emphasis on Public Administration from the Nelson Mandela University. Part of Councillor Janda's repertoire includes extensive international involvement with the more recent a partnership between Amathole District Municipality and Kampala Central Division Council in Uganda. This initiative took place during the Councillor's tenure with the Amathole District Municipality. Councillor Janda occupies the capacity of Chairperson of the National Governance & Intergovernmental Relations Working Group. In this capacity he has facilitated structured engagement between Local Government and executives at both a National and Provincial level.



Prof Thuli Mandonsela: *Director of the Centre for Social Justice - Stellenbosch University; Former Public Protector*

Professor Thuli (Thulisile) Nomkhosi Madonsela is the director of the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) in the Faculty of Law at Stellenbosch University (CSU) where she occupies is the Law Trust Chair Professor of Law in Social Justice Studies. She currently teaches on Constitutional Law, Social Justice, Administrative Law, Constitutional Governance and Ethical Leadership. She holds eight honorary law doctorates in addition to two law degrees, a Harvard Advanced Leadership Certificate and other post graduate qualifications. She is also an advocate of the High Court of South Africa. The former Public Protector of South Africa and full-time Commissioner in the South African Law Reform Commission, Prof Madonsela is a member of the African Academy of Sciences and the Scottish WS Society. She is the Chairperson of Cities Alliance and a member of the UN Scientific Advisory Board, International Anticorruption Conference Coordinating and the International Council for Arbitration in Sport (ICAS).

Prof Madonsela was one the 11 technical experts who helped draft the South African Constitution and is a co-architect of several constitutionally mandated laws, including the Equality Act, Employment Equity Act and Promotion of Administrative Justice Act. A regularly sought keynote speaker, Prof Madonsela has written, taught, presented papers and published for decades on these matters. Prof Thuli helped draft several international human rights instruments at UN, AU and SADC level and country reports on such matters. She is an author of two books on Gender Mainstreaming (2002) and Gender Management (2002) and a core author and architect of the inaugural Benchwork for Equality Courts and Resource Book for Equality Court Clerks.

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Named one of Time 100 most influence persons in the world in 2014 and Forbes Africa Person of the year in 2017, Prof Madonsela's global recognition includes over 70 awards, that include Rotary's Paul Harris Award, Commonwealth Lawyers Truth and Justice Award, and the global ACFE Cressy Award. Prof Madonsela is a mother of two, a philanthropist and avid mountaineer who has summited Mt Kilimanjaro twice under #Trek4Mandela-#Caring4Girls and #Action4Inclusion.



Ms Parusha Bachan: *Group Product Manager – Lexis Nexis*

Ms Parusha Bachan is the Group Product Manager for Lexis+ AI at LexisNexis South Africa. With an LLB degree and extensive expertise in legal tech strategy, Parusha leads innovation in AI-driven research solutions that empower legal professionals.



Mr Mmolawa Ndamulelo: *Senior Associate – H M Chaane Attorneys*

Mr Mmolawa Ndamulelo is a Senior Associate at HM Chaane Attorneys Inc and an admitted Attorney of the High Court of South Africa. He obtained his LLB degree from the University of Venda in 2019 and completed his Practical Legal Training at the Polokwane School for Legal Practice in the same year. He served his articles at Mudau and Netshipise Attorneys for two years before being admitted as an attorney on 09 September 2021. With five years of experience as a practicing attorney enrolled with the Legal Practice Council, Mr Ndamulelo has developed strong expertise in General Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Employment Law, and Public Law. He has also been actively involved in arbitration and mediation processes, initiating and chairing disciplinary hearings, and providing strategic legal advice on merits and quantum in complex litigation matters. Mr Mmolawa currently serves as a Senior Associate at HM Chaane Attorneys Inc, where he continues to provide comprehensive litigation and advisory services to both public and private sector clients.

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Mr George Thomas: *Senior Manager External Legal Advisory Services – SALGA*

Mr George Thomas is a seasoned legal professional with over 20 years of experience in the legal industry. As Senior Manager for External Legal Advisory Services at SALGA, he oversees litigation, legal advisory support, regulatory compliance, and legislative review processes for municipalities. He specialises in municipal governance, corporate law, and risk management, ensuring that municipalities adhere to evolving legal frameworks. He has played a pivotal role in shaping legal policies and advocating for local government interests at a national level. Mr Thomas holds a B.Proc and LLB from Rand Afrikaans University and an Advanced Diploma in Labour Law from the University of Johannesburg. He has held senior legal positions in both private and public sectors, including serving as Managing Director of his law firm and as a Senior Legal Advisor at Eskom, Development Bank of Southern Africa as well as Regional Manager Legal Services at Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. His expertise in litigation, procurement, and legislative review makes him a key player in developing legal strategies that enhance service delivery and governance in local municipalities.



Mr Siphon Nkosi: *Senior Associate - Lawtons Africa Inc Attorneys*

Siphon focuses on general and commercial litigation, with a particular interest and expertise in administrative and constitutional law, medical schemes law and insurance law. He has extensive experience in the local government space, having advised several municipalities, and of course, SALGA.



Mr Segala Malahlela: *Head of Legal Services & Chairperson of the Municipal Consultative Legal Forum*

Mr Segala Malahlela is an admitted Attorney, Notary and Conveyancer of the High Court of South Africa. He obtained his LLB from the University of Western Cape and his LLM from the University of Pretoria. He holds a Municipal Competency Certificate from WITS University and a Certificate in Prospecting & Mining Law from the Mandela Institute as well as an Advanced Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution with AFSA and University of Pretoria. Segala is currently the Group Head of Group Legal and Contracts in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality. Since the beginning of his legal career in 2004, he has dealt extensively with an array of legal matters for both private and public sector clients. Segala's experience includes being at the helm of management of the Municipality and for the Municipality-owned entities including being the Acting Managing Director for Pikitup which is the City of Johannesburg waste management entity.

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Mr Malusi Mhlongo: *Head of Legal Services - eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality*

Mr Malusi Mhlongo is the Head of Legal and Compliance at eThekweni Municipality, where he oversees all legal aspects of municipal operations. An admitted attorney, he holds BA and LLB degrees from the University of Durban Westville (now University of Kwazulu-Natal) and an LLM in Public Procurement Policy and Regulation from Stellenbosch University. After private practice, he served as Director: Legal Services at the KZN Department of Housing and as Legal Consultant for the 2010 FIFA World Cup project. Mr Mhlongo's career includes roles as Deputy Head: Litigation and Legal Advisor at eThekweni Municipality and his expertise lies in procurement law, municipal litigation, and compliance.



Mr Johan Van Zyl: *Acting Senior Manager: Collective Bargaining & Labour Relations – SALGA*

Mr Johan van Zyl holds a post graduate Diploma in Labour Law. As a former trade unionist, Johan joined SALGA in 2004 where he is currently employed as the Acting Senior Manager: Collective Bargaining & Labour Relations. Mr van Zyl represented SALGA on behalf of municipalities in several South African Local Government Bargaining Council (SALGBC) structures and is a member of the SALGBC Executive Committee as well as a long standing member of the Bargaining Committee which has concluded several collective agreements successfully. Johan was instrumental in the conclusion of the milestone 5 -year collective agreement and is also a member of the Finance and HR Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee and the Employee Benefits Committee at the SALGBC. Mr van Zyl was a lead facilitator for the Local Labour of the training for the Employer Component, and co-trainer to all the facilitators who were deployed to conduct this training. Although he is a specialist in both collective bargaining and dispute resolution, collective bargaining is his passion and he is a firm believer of collaborative collective bargaining as the most effective tool to prevent and resolve disputes and promote labour peace.



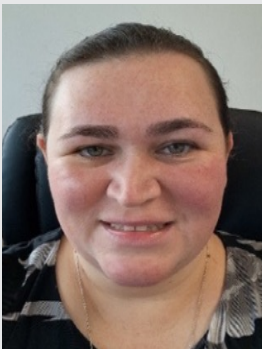
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Mr Xavier Erasmus: *Principal Legal Advisor – City of Cape Town*

Mr Xavier Erasmus holds an LLB from the University of the Western Cape and was admitted as an attorney in 2015. With 10 years of post admission experience, Xavier has built a robust legal career encompassing legal advisory work, civil litigation, and criminal litigation in both the Magistrates' and High Courts. Xavier joined the City of Cape Town in 2019 and has established himself as a key contributor to the City's legal operations. In recognition of his exceptional commitment and impact, Xavier was awarded the Executive Mayor's Prestige Award at the City's Rewards and Recognition Ceremony in 2024. Driven by a deep passion for the law and its practical application, Xavier is especially committed to the evolving field of land security. He champions legally sound, socially responsible, and operationally effective approaches to municipal land management, while building and mentoring a strong team within the City's Legal Services.



Ms Melissa Murray: *Rector of the Bridget Mabandla Justice College*

Mr Malusi Mhlongo is the Head of Legal and Compliance at eThekweni Municipality, where he oversees all legal aspects of municipal operations. An admitted attorney, he holds BA and LLB degrees from the University of Durban Westville (now University of Kwazulu-Natal) and an LLM in Public Procurement Policy and Regulation from Stellenbosch University. After private practice, he served as Director: Legal Services at the KZN Department of Housing and as Legal Consultant for the 2010 FIFA World Cup project. Mr Mhlongo's career includes roles as Deputy Head: Litigation and Legal Advisor at eThekweni Municipality and his expertise lies in procurement law, municipal litigation, and compliance.



Mr Sithembele Zenzile: *Legal Officer - Legal Practice Council*

Mr Sithembele Zenzile holds a Bachelor of Law and has a strong professional interest in legal regulatory compliance and legislative interpretation within South Africa's legal framework. He brings a multidisciplinary perspective to legal and policy discussions, with experience engaging in regulatory law and the practical application of legislation in institutional and governance environments. His work focuses on legislative implementation and developing effective compliance strategies. Sithembele is passionate about strengthening legal institutions, promoting ethical practices, and supporting legal practitioners and candidates in understanding regulatory requirements through clear and practical insights.



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Mr Siyabulela Mfingwana: Deputy Director: Litigation – eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality

Mr Siyabulela Mfingwana is the Deputy Director: Litigation at eThekweni Municipality and an admitted attorney with 27 years of post-admission legal experience, having been admitted to practice in 1999. He has spent 19 years in the local government environment, where he has developed extensive expertise in municipal legal services and litigation. Throughout his career at eThekweni Municipality, Mr Mfingwana has progressed through several key legal positions, beginning as a Legal Advisor, then serving as a Senior Legal Advisor, and later as Chief Legal Advisor/Senior Manager for Legal Services before being appointed Deputy Director: Litigation. In these roles, he has been responsible for providing strategic legal advice, overseeing litigation matters, and supporting the municipality in managing complex legal and regulatory issues within the local government framework.

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