

Human Rights obligations of local government

The South African Constitution's Bill of Rights lays out a number of rights, including the right to water, electricity, and sanitation services, and local government, is obligated to actively realise these rights for people and communities across the length and breadth of the country.

This means that the provision of essential municipal services enables municipalities to fulfil their human rights obligations, and Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) annual General Household Surveys, which track trends in service delivery over time, among other things, demonstrate that local government takes this obligation seriously.

- 89.8% of South African households are currently connected to the mains electricity supply, up from 76.7% in 2002.
- Nationally, 87.0% of households have access to piped or tap water in their homes, and the proportion of households with access to improved sanitation rose from 61.7% in 2002 to 83.3% in 2023.
- Finally, household waste was removed at least once per week (60,0%) or less than once per week.

Despite the severe financial and capacity constraints municipalities face in meeting the needs of everyone, everywhere, considerable progress has been made in expanding access to the provision of basic services to communities.

SALGA National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of SALGA will convene from March 18 to 19, 2025, at the Jack Botes City Hall in Polokwane to discuss important organisational and municipal issues, policy priorities, and programme issues. The NEC will also be having an engagement with municipalities in Mpumalanga to collaborate on finding solutions to their pressing challenges.

National Working Groups

SALGA National Working Groups, which serve as a platform for political consultation among organised local government members to offer ideas, counsel, political understanding, and support on the designated areas of focus to SALGA's NEC, will convene from March 4–8.

Commemorative events

- Human Rights Month is commemorated in March to remind South Africans about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa. Human Rights Day on 21 March falls within this period.
- TB Awareness Month, 1-31 March, and TB Day on 24 March commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch astounded the scientific community by announcing that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus.
- Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday in March every year. People in Commonwealth countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific and Europe will observe Commonwealth Day. Faith and civic gatherings, debates, school assemblies, flag raising ceremonies, street parties and fashion shows are just some of the events they will use to celebrate the vast diversity, strong unity and uplifting values that define the Commonwealth.
- World Consumer Rights Day celebrated on March 15 every year, is a global event that aims to raise awareness about consumer rights and needs. Consumer rights mean that every person who buys various products, goods, and services, has the right to have

information on the quality, purity, price, and standard of those products.

- The National Water Week (20-26 March) campaign is aimed at educating the public about their responsibility in water conservation initiatives, raising awareness around the need to protect and conserve the country's water resources.
- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March, is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.

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