

MEDIA INVITATION



Democracy Development Program NPC



Promoting active citizenship and good governance

THE RAITH
FOUNDATION



A CALL FROM CIVIL SOCIETY TO DEAL WITH THE CRISIS IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE

On 29 October 2020, civil society organisations working within the local government sector and others concerned with the state of local government, will be participating in a joint virtual press briefing to present their collective reflections and recommendations to the Auditor-General's 2018/2019 Report titled, Consolidated General Report on the Local Government Audit Outcomes.

For the past 3 years, the Auditor-General's Report on the state of local government has shown a concerning state of decline in this sphere of government. This year, the now outgoing Auditor-General, Thembekile Kimi Makwetu, highlighted that while a lot has been achieved in local government, there are still many persistent service delivery challenges that continue to widen the inequality gap across South Africa. The report also indicates that the availability of funds is not a challenge in many municipalities, but the capacity to manage those public funds is a huge challenge. There is a leadership crisis in the sector.

The year 2020 marks 20 years since the establishment of local government (and this is Makwetu's final year as the Auditor-General). In light of this, a number of civil society organisations decided to carefully study the report and come up with implementable strategic policy recommendations to fast track the recovery of the local government sector - which is directly responsible for service delivery.

The changes required in local government need systemic and legislative modifications in order to insulate local government from the kind of political interference it has endured and the disruptive results thereof. The situation is even more urgent in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, where the need for stronger municipal structures has been highlighted.

Afesis-corplan, the Democracy Development Program (DDP) and other like-minded organisations, invite members of the media to a press briefing where they will launch a targeted campaign which advocates for reforms in the local government sector - in conversation with the Auditor-General's Report.

The press briefing will happen as follows:

Date : Thursday, 29 October 2020
Time : 09:30 am – 10:30 am
Zoom Link : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81956964511?pwd=eURTTmNVazl1K2lSb25WSDhCdkhqdz09>
Meeting ID : 819 5696 4511
Passcode : 268765

For any further queries please contact:

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