

**INAUGURAL ANNUAL LOCAL
GOVERNMENT GOOD GOVERNANCE INDABA**
**THEME: Strengthening the Interface among Assurance
Providers Towards Enhancing the Quality of Democracy**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

06 - 07 OCTOBER 2025, WILD COAST SUN RESORT, BIZANA

SALGA has a clear strategic role to play, representing the interests of local government within the system of government as a whole and supporting its members to fulfil their developmental obligations, on the other. As a full partner in government, SALGA is expected to be an active participant in the intergovernmental relations system, to provide common policy positions on numerous issues and to voice local government interests, as well as provide solutions to the challenges facing local government more generally. Since its establishment, the association has endeavoured to perfect delivering on its mandate as highlighted below. Its mandate rests on six pillars and SALGA leads in the transformation of local government and actively pursues solutions for problems facing municipalities through lobbying, advocacy and representation; acts as an employer body; capacity building; support and advice; strategic profiling and knowledge and information sharing.

To expedite the implementation of the above mandate, SALGA, in addition to its strategic role in fostering a reciprocal cooperative governance system, works closely with several international partners, including other Local Government Associations from across the world. In addition, the strategic posture of SALGA must be aligned with the emerging global and macro planning context and prevailing economic conditions.

In partnership with the Nelson Mandela University through the Raymond Mhlaba Centre for Governance and Leadership, SALGA will host an Inaugural Annual Local Government Good Governance Indaba at Wild Coast Sun Resort, Bizana on the 06-07 October 2025. This is centred on the university's Vision 2030, that outlines its intent to be a dynamic African centred university recognised for its leadership in generating cutting edge knowledge for a sustainable future and service of society. The Indaba will bring together municipal professionals, policy makers, local government experts, politicians, academics, policy institutes, non-profit and for-profit and public and private sector partners in local government. The Indaba will explore a wide array of challenges facing local governments, including, but not limited to, financial constraints, ageing infrastructure, and issues with service delivery, all exacerbated by factors like rapid urbanisation, climate change, economic instability and so on. This is a call for papers to be presented at the conference. Submissions must fall into one or more of the following themes.

THEME 1. ETHICAL LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

The papers in this category are to look at sub-themes, and are not limited to:

- Ethical leadership and the ideal type of leaders to drive transformation.
- Leadership in relation to ethics, integrity management, governance and accountability.
- Role of different stakeholders in fostering ethical behaviour and ethical culture in decision making.
- Navigating complex ethical dilemmas.
- Addressing fraud and corruption maleficence.
- Coalitions in local government, and
- Political-administrative nexus.

**THEME 2: THE INTERFACE AMONG ASSURANCE PROVIDERS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
GOOD GOVERNANCE**

The papers in this category are to look at sub-themes, and are not limited to:

- The impact of the amended Public Audit Act in line with AGSA's expanded mandate.
- The dynamics of internal audit and risk management in municipal governance
- The interface amongst assurance providers and reflections on the impact of the amended Public Audit Act.
- The role of ICT in strengthening good governance and oversight.
- The relationship between MPACs and Audit Committees: improving coordination for enhanced oversight and governance.
- Exploring the benefits of combined assurance model in strengthening institutional integrity and reducing duplication of oversight efforts.

THEME 3: COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS ON SERVICE DELIVERY, MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT IN SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The papers in this category are to look at sub-themes, and are not limited to:

- The importance of public e-participation in decision-making within the municipalities.
- Strategies for effective community engagement.
- The role of local government in fostering an active and responsible citizenry in their affairs.
- Communities' roles in protecting vandalism of municipal infrastructure.
- Changing roles of local-state-business relations.
- Community empowerment and participation in building resilient smart municipalities.
- Service delivery monitoring in general and project oversight
- Inclusive governance and transparency.

THEME 4: DEVELOPING A COST-EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL VIABILITY MODEL FOR MUNICIPALITIES

The papers in this category are to look at sub-themes, and are not limited to:

- Accountability, transparency, and good governance.
- Financial sustainability, effective and efficient resource use.
- Trends in collaborative funding resource leveraging from the private sector (Renewable energy companies).
- Revenue adequacy and certainty.
- Local government funding model.
- Alternative infrastructure financing mechanisms.
- Investment attraction and retention.

THEME 5: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AS A TOOL TO PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE

The papers in this category are to look at sub-themes, and are not limited to:

- The role of performance management in high-performing work cultures.
- Managing the consequences of poor performance
- Leadership oversight and accountability.
- Connecting individual and organizational performance.
- The influence of the 4th Industrial Revolution on performance management.
- Performance measurement, monitoring and management.

- Presenters can submit abstracts of **not less than 250-300 words** on any of the specific themes stated above. However, each presenter can only submit a **maximum of two (2) abstracts**. Abstracts should be submitted to salga.raymhlabacentre25@mandela.ac.za by no later than the closing date. The length of the paper should be confined to a range of **4500-6000 words**.
- Presenters who need their papers to feature in a special issue publication following the Indaba would have to submit their full papers before the due date.

1. PAPER SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION

Presenters who need their papers to feature in a special issue publication following the Indaba would have to submit their full papers before the due date.

2. MANUSCRIPT GUIDELINES

Abstract: Delegates are expected to submit abstracts of not less than 250-300 words in line with the above stated themes. Submission of abstracts must be in the electronic MS Word version that includes Title page that includes (1) Title of submission, Name of Author, Affiliation and Contact Information as well the Theme of their choice; and (2) the second page must only have the Title of the Paper proposed and the Abstract. The submission date for this part is **10 August 2025**.

The Paper: Full papers should be submitted on or before **26 September 2025** for peer review consideration. Papers should be written in Arial 12pt, 1.5 line-spacing and justified margins with the following guidelines:

- The paper should include title page (title, author name, and affiliations), abstract including key words (350 words), the main body, conclusion and references.
- The length of the paper should be confined to a range of 4500-6000 words.
- The title of the paper should be descriptive and concise. Authors are encouraged to avoid wordy titles.
- Papers should be divided into subheadings and be paginated.
- Presenters are limited to submit a maximum of two (2) papers for publication.

3. REFERENCE STYLE

The reference style required for submission is strictly **Harvard**. Authors are required to follow this style specification consistently. The editorial team will reject papers with faulty referencing.

4. IMPORTANT DATES

- 10 August 2025: Submission of abstracts.
- 26 September 2025: Submission of full selected papers for double blind peer-review.
- 06-07 October 2025: Indaba.

For further information contact Dr Nkosiyabo Singanto from SALGA at nsinganto@salga.org.za and Dr Ongama Mtimka from Nelson Mandela University at Ongama.Mtimka@mandela.ac.za