

**Portfolio Committee on Cogta, E-Government, Research & Development Roundtable Discussion on the topic** **“The Future of Coalition Government in the Province of Gauteng”.**

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 and the Gauteng Provincial Legislature Standing Rules and Public Service Oversight Model gives provision to the Portfolio Committee on CoGTA, E-Government, Research & Development to ensure oversight and accountability on utilization of public resources by the Executive including the municipalities within Gauteng.

**Introduction**

The 2021 local government polls brought about seventy (70) hung Councils leading to coalition governments. Political parties coming together to form coalitions politics need a careful consideration of South Africa’s political, cultural, and economic context to ensure sustenance of coalition politics. A positive aspect of coalition governments is that they enable large and small parties in South Africa to have a chance at participating in the government and hold important positions of leadership.

**The nature of coalition government in Gauteng municipalities**

A wider range of Communities rationally and ethnically have access to government and opportunities and spaces through coalitions however this can also be a space for narrow national interest to also take form.

Since 2016, coalitions have formed in most metropolitan councils for example the City of Johannesburg, City of Tshwane (and recently the City of Ekurhuleni since the 2021 local government elections) and Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan however, they continue to be unstable. The Gauteng’s category B and C municipalities such as Mogale City and West Rand district municipalities are not sparred from coalition politics. This has culminated in the spectre of political contestations amongst parties, which often leads to the failure of municipal councils to pass their budgets and implement integrated development plans (IDPs).

**Implications of coalition on municipal governance**

Coalitions has a huge bearing on the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery. Municipalities are notorious for being dysfunctional on multiple levels, with the most basic services, such as water security or road infrastructure, falling short. The audit report of the Auditor General has revealed that two municipalities are doing well in Gauteng i.e., Midvaal and City of Ekurhuleni due to the clean audit outcomes obtained for successive years. Nearly half of municipalities in the province are deemed to be at risk due to political and administrative leadership crisis.

Potential conflict and security instability may exist because parties in a coalition govern are in the shadow of electoral competition where they will typically compete directly against each other for votes. Public interest is often ignored in these contexts, leaving people power to a minimum.

It is against this background that the Portfolio Committee invites you to be part of a Roundtable to discuss and deliberate the future prospects and challenges that will be faced by the People of Gauteng due to coalition government.

**Details of the Round Table**

The Roundtable discussion will take place as follows:

**Dates : Thursday, 20 July 2023**

**Venue : City of Tshwane (Fire & Ice Hotel in Menlyn)**

**Time : 10h00 – 13h30**