

12h30	Registration & networking over lunch
13h30	Welcome Nishendra Moodley welcomes participants and shares what this room is uniquely positioned to do.
13h45	Dialogue: What does it really take to build a capable, collaborative local state? Nishendra Moodley in conversation with Andrew Boraine, independent partnering practitioner involved in the review of the Local Government White Paper.
14h40	Debate: Does the vote matter if the system doesn't change? Participants interactively discuss with Rudi Dicks, Imtiaz Sooliman, Musa Jack and Johann Mettler whether meaningful change in local governance depends on who wins the vote or on structural reforms needed regardless of the outcome. Facilitated by Rushka Ely & Gill Cullinan
15h50	A word from our partners Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
16h00	Where do we go from here? In a specifically commissioned performance, Koleka Putuma holds the tension between what local government is, and what it could be.
16h15	After the vote Nishendra Moodley ends the afternoon by surfacing what the EDP commits to taking forward, no matter the outcome of the elections and sharing a vote of thanks.
16h30	Networking



Nishendra Moodley

With 27 years shaping public policy and co-authoring Building a Capable State, EDP CEO Nishendra Moodley is redefining what effective citizen-state partnerships can achieve.



Andrew Boraine

A five-decade architect of South Africa's urban and economic transformation, he founded three landmark institutions — the South African Cities Network, Cape Town Partnership, and Western Cape EDP — and led the 2024–2026 review of the White Paper on Local Government.



Imtiaz Sooliman

Trading a medical practice for a global calling, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman founded Gift of the Givers in 1992, growing it into the largest disaster response organisation of African origin.



Rudi Dicks

As head of the Presidency's Project Management Office, Rudi Dicks has driven the Presidential Employment Stimulus, Just Energy Transition and Operation Vulindlela, while building SEIAS into a permanent pillar of evidence-based governance.



Musa Jack

Leading Anglo American's Municipal Capability and Partnership Programme, Musa Jack is building resilient, water-secure municipal systems in mining regions designed to outlast the mines themselves.



Johann Mettler

City Manager of Tshwane since 2022 and a Lund University-trained attorney, Johann Mettler brings decades of municipal leadership to restoring the capital's financial stability and ethical governance.



Gregor Jaecke

Gregor Jaecke has been the Resident Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in South Africa since January 2023 and, having joined KAS in 2015, has previously led KAS projects in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Lebanon/Iraq.



Koleka Putuma

A multi-award-winning poet and theatre-maker, Koleka Putuma turns razor-sharp, boundary-breaking verse on race, gender and power into unforgettable statements of conviction.

