

The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act

“A YEAR IN THE PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS”

The Community Law Centre hosted a national conference on “The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act: A year in the provinces and districts” at the University of the Western Cape on 3 November 2006. The aim of the conference was to review the implementation of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, No 13 of 2005, which has been in effect from 15 August 2005. It focused on three aspects of the Act:

- the functioning of the premiers’ intergovernmental forums;
- the functioning of district intergovernmental forums; and
- the functioning of the technical support structures supporting these political intergovernmental structures. (See pages 4-10 for discussion.)

The conference reflected on the first year of operation of these intergovernmental forums to assess the lessons learnt and practices that have developed. It brought together key players in the intergovernmental relations arena to discuss the progress made, the challenges faced and the way forward. The participants included executive mayors of districts and local municipalities, Lechesa Tsenoli, MP, chairperson of the National Assembly’s Portfolio Committee on Provincial and Local Government, provincial department officials responsible for intergovernmental relations and representatives from SALGA and the Department of Provincial and Local Government.

The Community Law Centre has for the past 18 months been conducting research on intergovernmental relations at provincial and local government level as a grantee of the Conflict and Governance Facility (CAGE), a European Union-funded research initiative of the National Treasury. In terms of the grant, papers were produced on the following matters:

- relations between district and local municipalities;
- a status quo report on provincial and district intergovernmental relations forums prior to August 2005;



L-R: Dr Sihle Moon, Executive Director, SALGA Western Cape; Themba Fosi, Executive Manager: Intergovernmental Relations, DPLG; and Honourable MP Lechesa Tsenoli, Chairperson National Assembly’s Portfolio Committee on Provincial and Local Government



L-R: Kemal Omar, Manager: Intergovernmental Relations, City of Cape Town; Clarence Johnson, Executive Mayor, Cape Winelands District Municipality; Jonas Ramokhoase, Chairperson, SALGA Free State, Executive Mayor, Fesilidabe District Municipality and Reuben Baatjies, Managing Editor, *LG Bulletin*



L-R: Jonas Ramokhoase, Chairperson SALGA Free State, Executive Mayor of Fesilidabe District Municipality; and Fundiswa Ngubentombi, Executive Mayor, Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Free State

- guidelines on intergovernmental dispute settlement;
- an evaluation of premiers’ intergovernmental forums; and
- an evaluation of district intergovernmental forums.

Visit www.cage.org.za to download these papers.