

Media Release

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Centre for Good Governance in Africa at Hugenote in Partnership with the University of the Free State to Host #integritasza 2023 Conference and Workshops on Coalition Governance in South Africa –

Wellington, South Africa – August 28, 2023

The 2024 South African Election, probably in July or August in 2024, will deliver a significantly different political and governance landscape in South Africa. This will impact exponentially on all South African citizens, and all sectors of South African society and spheres of governance.

The Centre for Good Governance in Africa, a division of the School of Social Innovation at Hugenote in partnership with the University of the Free State is pleased to announce the upcoming #integritasza 2023 Conference and Workshops.

This two-day event will focus on the theme:

"Coalition Governance in South Africa: Dedicated Desired States or Destructive States of Disasters."

This significant event takes place on Tuesday 5 December, and Wednesday 6 December 2023, at the prestigious Andrew Murray Centre in Wellington, South Africa.

Challenges of governance in South Africa is an ongoing concern, and in recent years, the emergence of coalition governments has presented both opportunities and complexities in the governance and political landscape of the country. As South Africa forges a path of effective governance with integrity, it is essential to explore the intricacies of coalition governance arrangements and find ways to overcome the hurdles presented.

The #integritasza 2023 Conference and Workshops aim to address the pressing challenging context of governance in South Africa and shed light on the difficulties associated with coalition governance. As the nation navigates complex political landscapes, it becomes crucial to examine the potential of coalitions and explore viable solutions to improve governance through effective and integrity-based coalition governance.

Coalition governance is currently and will continue to be intensely debated in South Africa.

Most recently coalition governance was in the focus of the summit on a framework for coalitions called by Deputy President Paul Mashatile in early August as well as during the deliberations resulting in the Multi-Party Charter for South Africa facilitated later in August by Professor William Gumede.

This conference and workshops will intentionally provide a platform for the public, policymakers, academics, politicians, businesspeople, civil society representatives, and thought leaders to engage in meaningful and courageous coalition governance conversations.

Stakeholders will share experiences, insights, and research findings, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the benefits and pitfalls of coalition governance in South Africa.

The conference and workshops will feature expert thought leader keynote speakers, panel discussions, interactive workshops, and networking sessions. This interactive and inclusive approach will involve participants to collaborate, exchange ideas, and develop innovative strategies for effective coalition governance with integrity.

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Some of the critical topics to be addressed during the conference and workshops include:

- Challenges of governance and coalitions in South Africa: The conference will begin with an in-depth exploration of the unique coalition governance challenges facing the nation. Understanding these challenges will serve as a foundation for addressing them effectively.
- Difficulties with coalition governance in South Africa: Participants will gain insights into the complexities and pitfalls of coalition governments. Drawing from both international and local case studies, the workshops will highlight the specific challenges that arise when multiple parties join forces in governance.
- Improving coalition governance in South Africa: This crucial segment of the event will focus on possible solutions and best practices to enhance coalition governance in South Africa. Identifying mechanisms for cooperation, conflict resolution, and policy implementation will be at the forefront of courageous coalition conversations.

Experts and participants will analyse coalition governance in South Africa with a focus on the complexities and difficulties associated with coalition governance, through examining the tensions, power dynamics, and policy implementation challenges that arise in coalition governance scenarios.

The conference will provide a platform for participants to co-create practical solutions, policy recommendations, and best practices to enhance coalition governance, strengthen political stability, and ensure effective and service delivery with integrity.

The Conference Partners encourages all stakeholders with an interest in coalition governance and South Africa's political landscape to participate in this important event.

The #integritasza 2023 Conference and Workshops will foster constructive courageous conversations and contribute to the collective efforts aimed at promoting good governance and sustainable development in the country.

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