

Presidential Opening Address
CIGFARO Annual Conference 2026

REIMAGINING PUBLIC FINANCE LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING SOUTH AFRICA

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Government Finance, Audit & Risk Officers

A Moment of Remembrance and Solidarity

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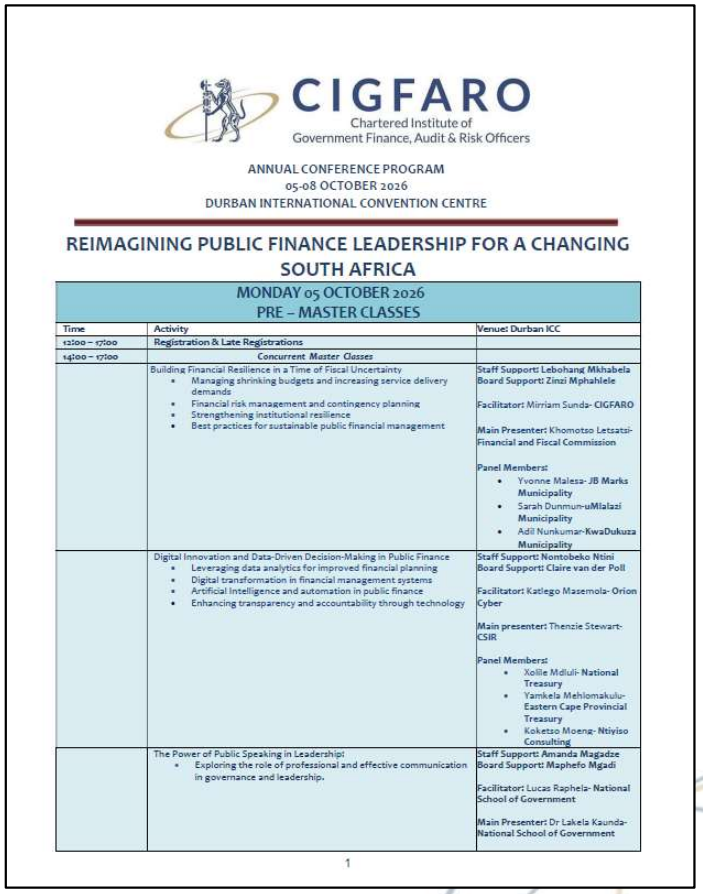
- Remembrance
- Solidarity
- Commitment



Leadership begins with recognising the dignity of every person

Welcome and Context

- Welcome to all
- Importance of local government finance leadership
- Opportunity to learn, connect and collaborate



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ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM
05-08 OCTOBER 2026
DURBAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

REIMAGINING PUBLIC FINANCE LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING SOUTH AFRICA

MONDAY 05 OCTOBER 2026
PRE – MASTER CLASSES

Time	Activity	Venue: Durban ICC
12:00 – 17:00	Registration & Late Registrations	
14:00 – 17:00	*Concurrent Master Classes*	
	Building Financial Resilience in a Time of Fiscal Uncertainty • Managing shrinking budgets and increasing service delivery demands • Financial risk management and contingency planning • Strengthening institutional resilience • Best practices for sustainable public financial management	**Staff Support: Lebohang Mkhabela** **Board Support: Zinzi Mphahlele** **Facilitator:** Mirriam Sunda- **CIGFARO** **Main Presenter:** Khomotso Letsatsi- **Financial and Fiscal Commission** **Panel Members:** • Yvonne Malesa- **JB Marks Municipality** • Sarah Dunmun-uMlalazi **Municipality** • Adil Nunkumar-**KwaDukuza Municipality**
	Digital Innovation and Data-Driven Decision-Making in Public Finance • Leveraging data analytics for improved financial planning • Digital transformation in financial management systems • Artificial Intelligence and automation in public finance • Enhancing transparency and accountability through technology	**Staff Support: Nontobeko Ntini** **Board Support: Claire van der Poll** **Facilitator:** Katlego Masemola- **Orion Cyber** **Main presenter:** Thenzie Stewart- **CSIR** **Panel Members:** • Xolile Mdluli- **National Treasury** • Yamkela Mehlomakulu- **Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury** • Koketso Moeng- **Ntiyiso Consulting**
	The Power of Public Speaking in Leadership! • Exploring the role of professional and effective communication in governance and leadership.	**Staff Support: Amanda Magadze** **Board Support: Maphefo Mgadi** **Facilitator:** Lucas Raphela- **National School of Government** **Main Presenter:** Dr Lakela Kaunda- **National School of Government**

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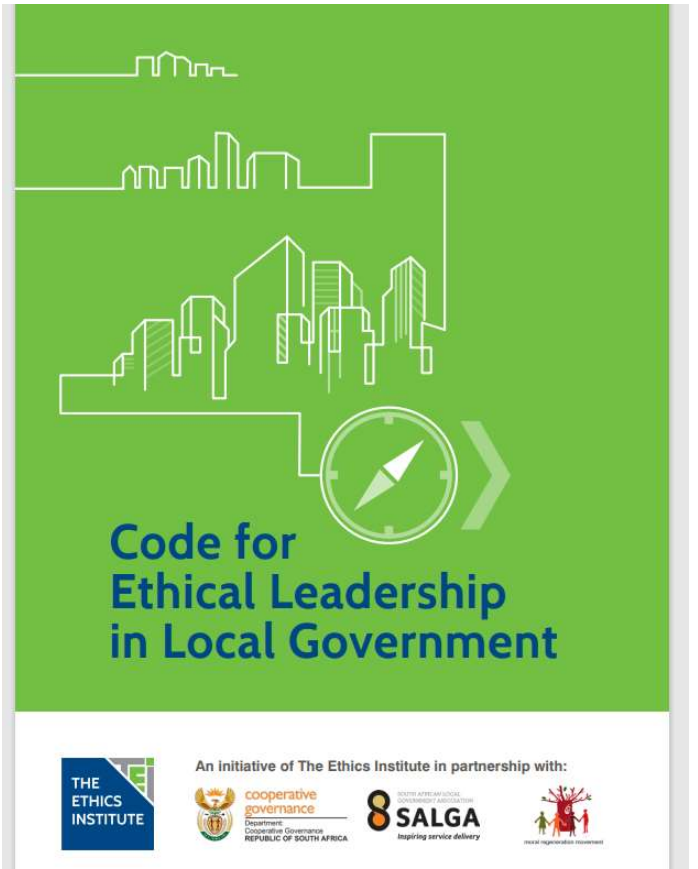
CIGFARO's Future Vision

- Ethical leadership
- Professional excellence
- African and global partnerships



Leading with Ethics and Stewardship

- 103 municipalities have adopted the Code for Ethical Governance
- Leadership is demonstrated through daily decisions
- Stewardship of public resources is a core duty



The Public Finance Environment

- Fiscal pressure and rising expectations
- Need for innovation and resilience
- Building capable institutions

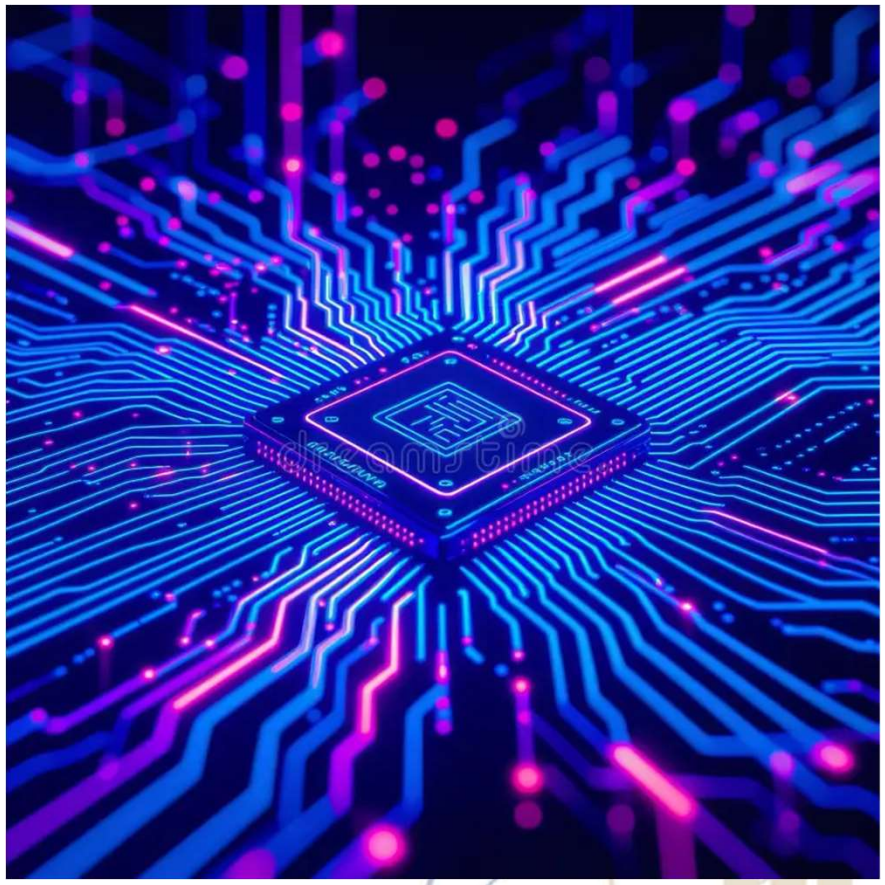
"You're being asked to enable innovation while managing risk. Strengthen resilience while controlling costs. Respond to today's threats while preparing for tomorrow's challenges."

Leadership – at all times

- The principles of lawful administration, sound financial management, ethical conduct and continuity of service must remain constant.
- Professionalism must remain constant.
- Integrity must remain constant.
- Compliance with legislative requirements must remain constant.
- Our commitment to the communities we serve must remain constant.

Innovation, Digital Transformation & AI

- Use technology responsibly
- Harness data for better decisions
- Balance innovation with governance and ethics



The Evolving Public Finance Leader

Technical competence remains essential, but technical knowledge alone is no longer sufficient.

Today's public finance professional must also be:

- A strategic thinker
- A risk manager
- A data interpreter
- A change leader
- An ethical guardian
- An adviser to leadership/management
- And a trusted steward of public resources

PUBLIC FINANCE LEADERS:
Protectors of institutional integrity and enablers of confident, defensible decision-making.

Conference Theme in Action

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Attend, engage and contribute	Attend, engage and contribute fully, Participate, do not merely attend
Share	Share experiences and practical solutions
Take	Take lessons back to your organisations

Reimagining Public Finance Leadership for a Changing South Africa

Strengthening Local Government Together

- Collaboration across municipalities
- Communities of practice and mentorship
- Building a stronger profession

Call to Action:

- Be curious
- Be engaged
- Be stewards of public trust

The challenges before us are significant, but so is the collective capability in this room.



Thank You!

President of CIGFARO, Louise Muller

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SAQA Recognised Professional Body