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17

## LEGAL ADVISORS TO ANALYSE LITIGATION TRENDS TO FAST TRACK INTERVENTIONS

By: Vuyani Sibene



Convening, the first face to face Legal Advisors Forum (LAF) post Covid-19 pandemic, its Chairperson Mr Siphiso Maqungo (left), the Director of Legal Service in Cogta said he was glad to see most of his colleagues survived the pandemic.

“We last met physically in February 2020 due to Covid-19. One of our colleagues, Mr Castro Mngomeni from Mbizana, who was the founding member of the forum, unfortunately did not survive the pandemic. May his soul rest in peace,” said Mr

Maqungo.

Mr Maqungo said the Forum is a “consultative and support structure” of legal advisors in the local space.

The Forum, he added, provides support, assistance and guidance to one another on legislation and legal compliance matters “For instance we have agreed to have the (Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) compliance report as a standing agenda item. The Provincial Litigation Management Strategy (LMS) will be presented in the Forum for benchmarking purposes to assist



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our municipalities to develop their own strategies. I urge colleagues to make a use of the LMS and bench mark on their litigation frame work”, said Mr Maqungo.

Ms Michelle Goliath, the Principal State Law Advisor from the Office of the Premier said the LMS emphasis on Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) matters including a focus on the early identification of risk factors, root cause of a complaint and further requires a purposive approach coupled with agility in the processing of complaints.

“Sourcing of litigation trends and consistency of specific litigation patterns locate administrative challenges in service delivery. A dedicated focus is required for prompt capturing of data to enable concise analysis of litigation trends and fast tracks interventions,” said Ms Goliath.