

Short Learning Programme Course Outline

Oversight in Local Government: Guidelines for Councillors (including Municipal Public Accounting Committees)

Training duration - 8 contact hours

Purpose of short learning programme (SLP)

This 1-day short learning programme is designed to provide councillors with an overview of the various oversight duties within the municipal environment, in order to enable the council to govern without interfering with the administration.

***Admission/entrance requirements**

- A National Senior Certificate (NSC)
- A National Certificate (Vocational) Level 4 (NCV4) or
- An appropriate Further Education and Training Certificate or equivalent.
- Good reading and writing skills at NQF level 4 is recommended.

* Please note that the Entrance Requirements are only applicable, if the student chooses to be assessed.

Attendance requirements

Kindly note students are required to remain in class for the duration of the course.

Course outline

Introduction

- Separation of powers
 - Legislative power
 - Executive power
 - Judicial power
- The constitutional imperative
 - National assembly
 - Provincial legislature
 - Parliamentary committees
- Constitutionally implied duty of oversight

- Democratic government
- Good governance
- Oversight relations

Oversight and laws applicable to local government

- The structures act
- The systems act
- The MFMA
- Oversight overview

Oversight by the community

Oversight by the municipal council

- Municipal council – executive mayor
- Municipal council – administration / municipal manager

Oversight by the executive mayor

- Source of oversight duty
 - General duty
 - Implied duty
 - Explicit duty re finance
- Executive mayor – members of the mayoral committee
- Executive mayor – municipal manager

The municipal public accounts committee (MPAC)

- Constitutional oversight: The standing committee on public accounts (SCOPA) model
- Need for oversight committees in local government
- The rationale for establishing a MPAC

Terms of reference of a MPAC informed by MFMA

- Contents of the annual report
- Disclosures

Extended mandate for MPAC

- The section 32 committee
- Oversight of executive actions

Assessment practice (Optional)

- Students need to obtain a 50% pass mark overall in order to be issued with a university Certificate of Compliance.

Training delivery

- Training can take place at the Nelson Mandela University's Bird Street campus in PE or on-site.

Contact details

For further information and to request quotations, please contact:

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