



## Cogta DG: Dan Mashitisho

Considering the understandable prediction made by his political primary, Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Minister, Zweli Mkhize, that a "hectic year" lies ahead in addressing dysfunctionality and distress in 87 of South Africa's 257 municipalities, it is relevant to consider the shoulders on to which an epic Recovery Plan will fall - Cogta Director-General (DG), Dan Mashitisho. This is especially pertinent perhaps given the frequent turnover of ministers in the portfolio, pointing to the need for continuity in steering dozens of embattled municipalities back to health.

### A heavy load

Dan Gorbachev Mashitisho has, according to the Cogta website, over 22 years' experience in the public sector, including a tumultuous, short stint as DG of the Department of Water and Sanitation in 2017 ([www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com), [www.tinzwei.com](http://www.tinzwei.com)).

Mashitisho's exposure to provincial government included serving as Member of Gauteng's Strategic Management Team (SMT), as well as acting as HOD for the Gauteng Department of Development Planning and Local Government. In addition, Mashitisho was a Ministerial appointee on the Wits Council, board member of the Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO) and a trustee for the Cradle of Human Kind ([www.cogta.gov.za](http://www.cogta.gov.za)).

This background gives the DG much-needed insight into the drafting of municipal legislation, but perhaps more pertinently are his 10 years spent as Mogale City's Municipal Manager, and a further 2 years as Merafong's Municipal Manager, during which period he founded the Institute of South African Municipal Accounting Officers (ISAMAO).

Mashitisho's academic background includes a Bachelor's degree and various post-graduate qualifications in Law, Management, Politics, Business Administration and Industrial Psychology from the Universities of Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg (UJ) and Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA) ([www.cogta.gov.za](http://www.cogta.gov.za)).

There is little doubt that all of these skills in addition to strong leadership will be called upon as Mashitisho pushes through the wide-range of responses required to assist local government out of its current quagmire.

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