

Social Equity LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



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International

A balancing act: governance challenges in balancing efficiency and social equity goals in South African municipal government.

Friday 9:30 am; Panel 3

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to examine the balance of priorities in policy implementation at the local government in South Africa. It aims to show that issues of efficiency in public administration must also be a critical component in building and implementing socially equitable policies. By critically examining recent service delivery trends in local government in South Africa and using the new Local Government Turnaround Strategy (LGTS) as a benchmark for assessment, this paper argues that more than any other factor, the failure of leadership in Local government has undermined performance in service delivery. The paper also demonstrates that although the LGTS has some credible objectives, unless the issue of leadership at the municipal level is dealt with, the LGTS will remain another ambitious government planned intervention that is going nowhere.