

9.	URGENT MATTERS
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9.1	INVITATION FROM THE STRONG CITIES NETWORK TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
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Collaborator No: 786073
 IDP KPA Ref No: Good governance and compliance
 Meeting Date: 21 May 2025

1. SUBJECT: INVITATION FROM THE STRONG CITIES NETWORK TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

2. PURPOSE

To request Council approval for the travelling arrangements for staff as part of the ongoing relations as a member of the Strong Cities Network to attend the workshop from 11-12 June 2025 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

3. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Council.

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stellenbosch Municipality was accepted as a Strong Cities Network member on 25 July 2023. Since then, knowledge-sharing engagements took place whereby information was shared with partnering cities on various crime prevention initiatives. An engagement was held in Cape Town in December 2023 where much interest was shown in Stellenbosch's Neighbourhood Watch support programs and safety initiatives, particularly the safety monitors (eyes and ears) project.

An invitation was received from the Mayor of Nansana Municipality, Ms Regina Bakitte, via the Strong Cities Network platform. Mr Gary Boshoff, Mr Charl Kitching and Ms Joan Felix were invited to provide input, training, sharing of policies, implementation plans, support plans etc. of safety initiatives, especially those related to the establishment of Neighbourhood Watches and similar safety projects. Stellenbosch Municipality was identified as a leader in the design, development and implementation of local safety projects with Neighbourhood Watches as the main pillar of such programs and projects. The municipality has therefore been invited to share its knowledge and expertise with the other partner cities of the Strong Cities Network.

To date, training have been conducted with follow up sessions which have been successfully conducted in Uganda. The focus of the upcoming workshop will be to address Hate, Extremism, Trafficking and Other Threats to Safety and Security.

The travel arrangements of the two employees must be approved by Council as it involves travelling outside the borders of RSA. In view of Council's approval of the continued involvement and as Council is only responsible for daily allowances the approval is recommended.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) that Council approves the travelling arrangements for Mr. Gary Boshoff and Mrs. Joan Felix for the workshop of 11- 12 June 2025 in, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;
- (b) that Council approves any further engagements which include international travel associated with Strong Cities Network and Stellenbosch Municipality; and
- (c) that Council approves the daily allowances for attendees as and when travelling occurs.

6. DISCUSSION**6.1 Background**

An invitation was sent to Stellenbosch Municipality based on previous engagements with various Strong City Network partners. During the engagements Stellenbosch Municipality highlighted one of its key projects, namely supporting various Neighborhood Watches within the municipal boundary. Based on the information shared, other strong city partners/municipalities showed a keen interest in adopting similar community-centered strategies to position safety matters as priority goals in their respective communities. Nansana Municipality (Uganda) then extended a formal invitation to Stellenbosch Municipality to come to Nansana Municipality to train local councilors and officials on the implementation of neighborhood watches as a community-based crime prevention strategy. Strong Cities have requested Stellenbosch municipalities to continue and train other local municipalities on crime prevention initiatives.

6.2 Discussion

Stellenbosch municipality is seen as a forerunner in crime prevention initiatives and as a working group member of Strong cities, have been invited to attend the East and Southern Africa Regional Hub workshop. The workshop will focus on information sharing in addressing Hate, Extremism, Trafficking and other threats to Safety and Security. The workshop will take place from 11-12 June 2025 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

6.3 Financial Implications

No financial implications for the municipality in relation to travelling and accommodation as these expenses are covered by the Stronger Cities Network. Only daily allowances are to be covered as per the approved policy by Stellenbosch municipality.

6.4 Legal Implications

Cost Containment policy 2024/2025 refers:

International Travel

9.2 International travel for any official or political office bearer can only be approved by the municipal council in a council meeting open to the public with a supporting vote of the majority of the members of the municipal council present.

9.3 The report to council for approval of international travel must include:

9.3.1 A motivation why the international travel is seen as critical and fully setting out the anticipated benefit that the municipality will derive from attending the event, meeting or function;

9.3.2 If international travel to the destination or event was previously undertaken, state what benefits if any derived from the previous attendance;

9.3.3 The full cost of the international travel including travel allowances to be paid; and

9.3.4 The proposed officials and political office bearers, not exceeding three, to travel and why they have been identified.

6.5 Staff Implications

The two employees will be absent for the duration of the visit.

6.6 Previous / Relevant Council Resolutions

Approval granted to Director Gary Boshoff, Mr. Charl Kitching (Senior Manager) and Ms. Joan Felix (Manager) to attend and facilitate the Neighbourhood Watch training project in Nansana Municipality, Uganda which is part of the Strong cities network. (approved by council dated: 25/04/2024)

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RESOLVED (majority vote with 1 abstention)

- (a) that Council notes the feedback report;
- (b) that Council supports the continued engagement between Nansana Municipality and Stellenbosch Municipality to advance community safety initiatives in both municipalities; and
- (c) that Council supports the possible signing of a twinning agreement between Nansana Municipality and Stellenbosch Municipality in relation to Community Safety.

6.7 Risk Implications

Addressed in the item content.

6.8 Comments from Senior Management:

6.8.1 Municipal Manager

Supports the recommendations

ANNEXURES

Invitation letter to Dir Boshoff and Mrs Felix to attend Dar es Salaam from 11-12 June 2025.

NAME	Gary Boshoff
POSITION	Director
DIRECTORATE	Community and Protection Services
CONTACT NUMBERS	021- 808 8437
E-MAIL ADDRESS	Gary.boshoff@ Stellenbosch.gov.za
REPORT DATE	19 May 2025

ANNEXURE A



MEMO

Municipality - Munisipaliteit
Stellenbosch

16 MAY 2025

Office of the Municipal Manager
Kantoor van die Munisipale Bestuurder

To:	Municipal Manager: G Mettler
From:	Director G Boshoff
Date:	16 May 2025
Re:	Subject: Border Municipalities Regional Workshop

Good day MM

1. Purpose

Ms Joan Felix and I have been invited by Strong Cities to attend a workshop in Dar Es Salaam from the 11-12 June 2025 focussing on addressing hate, extremism, trafficking and other threats to safety and security(attached).

2. Background

Stellenbosch Municipality was elected as a Strong Cities Network partner dated 25 July 2023 and a Twinning agreement which was undersigned by our Mayor and the Mayor from Nansana municipality. Four engagements have taken place whereby information was shared with partnering cities on crime prevention initiatives. The latest engagement was held in Nansana municipality from 22- 28 March 2025 where we met with the different communities to evaluate and guide them on what they have implemented. Stellenbosch municipality is deemed as an esteem partner in sharing knowledge and expertise with other African cities and vice versa.

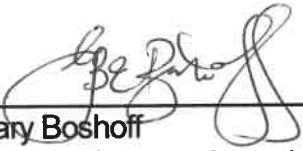
3. Discussion

As a partner of the Strong Cities, Stellenbosch municipality has received positive feedback from the previous engagements and support to the community of Nansana Municipality. This led to signing of a twinning agreement and a valuable partner to Strong Cities. We have been invited to attend a two-day workshop on the role of border municipalities in strengthening local and national safety and security. The focus of the workshop will be focussed on strengthening safety and security.

The workshop will convene with existing Working Group members to share progress with implementation of policies and programmes to address violence, conflict and climate-induced rapid urbanisation and (irregular) migration and exploitation of the porous borders by militant and other criminal actors to commit violence and illicit activities, such as drug, arms, human and wildlife trafficking. Flights and accommodation are covered by Strong Cities.

4. Recommendation

- 1) Permission to be granted for Ms Joan Felix and I to attend the engagements in Dar Es Salaam

 16/5/25

Gary Boshoff
Director: Community and Protection Services

 19/5/25

Geraldine Mettler
Municipal Manager

Note in terms of Cost containment policy all international travel need Council approval irrespective if someone else is paying for flights + accommodation ect. Please prepare item urgently.

Regional Workshop: The Role of Border Municipalities in Addressing Hate, Extremism, Trafficking and Other Threats to Safety and Security

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
11-12 June 2025

Esteemed Colleagues,

The Strong Cities Network's East and Southern Africa (ESA) Regional Hub is pleased to invite you to a regional workshop on **The Role of Border Municipalities in Addressing Hate, Extremism, Trafficking and Other Threats to Safety and Security**, which takes place on 11-12 June 2025 in Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania).

The workshop takes place with support from the European Union (EU) as part of its STRIVE Cities initiative. It will be delivered under the auspices of the ESA Regional Hub's Border Municipalities Working Group, which was launched in June 2023 to provide a dedicated, regional peer-learning platform for border towns, recognising that, as a result of the region's porous borders, border towns are on the frontlines of a number of challenges that carry complex security implications. This includes spill-over of violence, conflict and climate-induced rapid urbanisation and (irregular) migration and exploitation of the porous borders by militant and other criminal actors to commit violence and illicit activities, such as drug, arms, human and wildlife trafficking.

The workshop will convene existing Working Group members, which includes more than 30 cities from across 9 countries in the region, local governments new to Strong Cities, national governments, representatives from the EU, United Kingdom, Germany and more, as well as relevant regional blocs, such as the East African Community, Southern African Development Community, Intergovernmental Authority on Development and African Union. It has the following objectives:

- Showcase proven local governance models and city-led practices to strengthen community safety and security in border cities, with a focus on resource-light, transferable models that can be easily replicated in other contexts.
- Align strategies, programmes and resources between local, national and regional actors to strengthen collaboration and holistic implementation of relevant safety, security and broader peacebuilding frameworks.
- Develop a roadmap for integrating local government perspectives into regional and national policies that recognises the comparative advantages of each actor in strengthening safety and security.
- Equip local leaders with tools, knowledge and confidence to actively participate in regional and national discussions on safety, security and peacebuilding.

For more information about the workshop's objectives and context, please refer to the attached concept note.



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RSVP

To register for this workshop, we ask that you complete the following form **no later than Wednesday 23 May 2025**: <https://forms.office.com/e/whpRpSY1W4>.

Please note that we have limited funding to provide travel support and sponsorship is therefore prioritised for local government representatives.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, or contact Mr Geoffrey Ochieng, the ESA Regional Hub's Network Officer, at goc@strongcitiesnetwork.org

Sincerely,



Gertrude Rose Gamwera Buyinga
Head, ESA Regional Hub*
Strong Cities Network
grgb@strongcitiesnetwork.org

**The ESA Regional Hub is hosted by the East African Local Governments Association.*

About Strong Cities:

Strong Cities is an independent global network of more than 270 cities and other local governments dedicated to addressing all forms of hate, extremism and polarisation, while promoting a human rights-based prevention framework. Through in-person and online convenings, exchanges and trainings, Strong Cities facilitates sharing and learning among mayors and other local leaders as well as municipal-level practitioners. By doing so, it helps local authorities leverage their full potential in prevention, while complementing national, regional and global efforts.

To deepen its engagement with cities and local authorities across the ESA region, and with support from EU STRIVE Cities, Strong Cities launched a ESA Regional Hub to serve as a helpdesk for cities across the region, supporting them with city-city sharing, localising international good practice and elevating their voices on a global stage. The ESA Regional Hub, which is hosted by the East African Local Governments Association, held its inaugural workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2022.



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Regional Workshop: The Role of Border Municipalities in Addressing Hate, Extremism, Trafficking and Other Threats to Safety and Security

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
11-12 June 2025

Context

The Strong Cities Network's East and Southern Africa (ESA) Regional Hub will convene representatives from local and national governments as well as civil society and multilateral partners from across ESA for a two-day workshop on the role of border municipalities in strengthening local and national safety and security.

The workshop takes place with support from the European Union (EU) as part of its STRIVE Cities initiative. It will be delivered under the auspices of the ESA Regional Hub's Border Municipalities Working Group, which was launched in June 2023 to provide a dedicated, regional peer-learning platform for border towns, recognising that, as a result of the region's porous borders, border towns are on the frontlines of a number of challenges that carry complex security implications. This includes spill-over of violence, conflict and climate-induced rapid urbanisation and (irregular) migration and exploitation of the porous borders by militant and other criminal actors to commit violence and illicit activities, such as drug, arms, human and wildlife trafficking.

The workshop will convene existing Working Group members to share progress with implementation of policies and programmes to address the above challenges, while inspiring border towns new to Strong Cities to similarly take action and providing a platform for local actors to showcase their vital role in strengthening safety and security to national governments. In addition, the workshop will enhance local-regional engagement, convening blocs such as the East African Community, Southern African Development Community, Intergovernmental Authority on Development and African Union to promote the inclusion of cities and other local governments in relevant border security and border governance initiatives.

Finally, recognising the potential for partnerships to streamline and enhance support for local governments, the workshop will also convene representatives of various local government associations and other city-focused initiatives (e.g., South African Local Government Association, Council of Governors of Kenya, Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania, EU, UNDP, UNODC, IOM, GIZ and others) to explore with the Regional Hub how its impacts in ESA can be scaled, sustained and complement their work with cities.



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Objectives

The workshop will build on the Hub's substantial engagement with border municipalities since the launch of the Working Group at a Strong Cities regional workshop in June 2023. This includes:

- An initial capacity-building meeting of the Working Group in Cape Town (South Africa) to learn from the City's approach to prevention of hate and extremism, where this mandate has been integrated into its broader safety and security infrastructure.
- A second meeting of the Working Group on the margins of a regional workshop in Arusha (Tanzania), where existing members were given the opportunity to update on their implementation action plans and new members are briefed on the Group's purpose and strategy.
- Dedicated in-person capacity-building activities for Busia (Kenya) and Nansana (Uganda) on implementation of community-based safety and security early-warning mechanisms, Musina (South Africa) on cross-border migration management and Zanzibar (Tanzania) on cross-border collaboration with Mombasa (Kenya).

Building on this, this workshop will provide a forum to:

- Showcase proven local governance models and city-led practices to strengthen community safety and security in border cities, with a focus on resource-light, transferable models that can be easily replicated in other contexts.
- Align strategies, programmes and resources between local, national and regional actors to strengthen collaboration and holistic implementation of relevant safety, security and broader peacebuilding frameworks.
- Develop a roadmap for integrating local government perspectives into regional and national policies that recognises the comparative advantages of each actor in strengthening safety and security.
- Equip local leaders with tools, knowledge and confidence to actively participate in regional and national discussions on safety, security and peacebuilding.

Contact Us

For more information about this workshop and/or Strong Cities' portfolio in ESA, please contact Gertrude Rose Gamwera Buyinga, Head of the ESA Regional Hub, at grgb@strongcitiesnetwork.org.

About Strong Cities

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To deepen its engagement with cities and local authorities across the ESA region, and with support from the [EU STRIVE Cities](#) initiative, Strong Cities launched a ESA Regional Hub in 2022, which serves as a helpdesk for cities across the region, supporting them with city-city sharing, localising international good practice and elevating their voices on a global stage. The ESA Regional Hub is hosted by the [East African County and Local Governments Association](#).



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