



JUST SA Gauteng – Dr Samukelisiwe Mdlalose

In this episode of the TIPS Podcast series, host Nothembi Mahlangu speaks with Dr Samukelisiwe Mdlalose, Manager for Environmental Management, about the role municipalities play in advancing a just transition and building climate resilience in Gauteng.

Dr Mdlalose explains how environmental compliance, climate change planning, air quality management, and infrastructure development are deeply interconnected with economic growth, public health, and community wellbeing. The conversation explores how municipalities can integrate environmental considerations into planning processes from the outset to improve investor confidence, avoid costly non-compliance, and create more sustainable urban development pathways. The episode also highlights practical local initiatives already underway, including partnerships with universities, electronic waste recycling programmes, separation-at-source waste projects, urban agriculture initiatives, and environmental education campaigns in schools. Dr Mdlalose emphasises the importance of community participation, low-cost practical interventions, and collaboration with academic institutions and the private sector. The discussion further reflects on key challenges facing municipalities, including ageing infrastructure, limited funding, flood risks linked to urbanisation, and the need for greater investment in solar energy, rainwater harvesting, and climate-smart infrastructure. The episode concludes with reflections on future opportunities linked to agriculture, renewable energy, and the development of a proposed smart city corridor in Gauteng.

Podcast Link:

https://youtu.be/VFBNpo9KF_M?si=3WKjODHwhAvFftE0

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