



MYDISTRICTTODAY



A **NATION** THAT **WORKS** FOR ALL

Issue no. 20: June 2026

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PRIORITY I: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Empowering Pampierstad youth through information

By Mpho More, Tesah Gavhi and Kgomotso Sentso; GCIS, Northern Cape

To commemorate the Milestones of Freedom campaign, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) facilitated a public education awareness session on 25 May 2026 at the Pampierstad Youth Centre. The event formed part of government's key campaign marking of 30 Years of the Constitution, under the theme: "One Constitution, One Nation – Reflect, Renew, Recommit". It encouraged young people to reflect on the country's democratic journey, renew their commitment to its values and recommit to building an inclusive future.

The dialogue brought together young people from Pampierstad and provided

them with a platform to engage directly with government, civil society and regulatory stakeholders. The youth received practical information and guidance on entrepreneurship, including the steps to start and register their own businesses, available funding opportunities and support services.

Stakeholders that participated included the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, Northern Cape Legislature, Phokwane Local Municipality Local Economic Development (LED) office and Phokwane Business Forum.



Young people had the opportunity to consult one-on-one with stakeholders, ask questions and get clarity on how to navigate the business world and access funding.



Ms Omega Seleke from Phokwane Municipality LED office elaborating on the services available to young people.



Mr Masego Twabile, Chairperson of the Phokwane Business Forum, encouraged young people to join cooperatives.



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Dr Nkululeko Sebuzo:

"I am a product of the Department of Health's Cuba Programme. I think such programmes are very beneficial to the youth of Pampierstad because it is a remote area where people do not have access to information. It is of paramount importance to share information and to teach our people that, regardless of where you come from or what your background is, you can still succeed."



Mr Refentse Matlhaku:

"I am grateful for this programme from GCIS because it has brought information to the youth, enabling them to be better informed about access to funding opportunities for their businesses."



DHA officials handing over Smart ID cards to learners.



Acting Chief Director, Ms Bulelwa Qwelane:

“Empowering young people with information, psychosocial support and access to identity documents is an important step towards building active citizens who can participate meaningfully in democracy and shape their future.”

PRIORITY 3: BUILD A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

GCIS supports Civic Education and Learner Development campaign in QwaQwa

By Phoka Mofokeng; GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) supported the Free State Department of Education during the launch of the Civic Education and Learner Development campaign held on 8 and 9 May 2026, at the QwaQwa Multipurpose Hall in Phuthaditjhaba.

The launch supported government efforts aimed at empowering young people through civic education, learner development and access to essential services. It also encouraged Grade 12 learners to participate actively in democracy and prepare for their future through psychosocial support interventions.

Led in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and other stakeholders, the campaign promoted civic responsibility and assisted learners

to obtain Smart ID cards, thereby enabling access to future opportunities and government services.

More than 200 identity documents were issued to learners during the campaign. Activities included awareness sessions on the importance of active citizenship, voter participation and responsible youth leadership.

On the second day, the programme placed special focus on Grade 12 learners. The session provided psychosocial support aimed at encouraging learners to remain resilient and focused during the examination period, while also empowering them with information on democracy and nation-building.



Learners from various schools in the district attended the launch of the Civic Education and Learner Development campaign held at the Multipurpose Hall in Phuthaditjhaba.



Acting Chief Director, Ms Bulelwa Qwelane, with educators and DHA officials delivering services through DHA mobile units and issuing Smart ID cards to learners.

PRIORITY 3: BUILD A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Deputy President Mashatile led the 191st anniversary commemoration of Kumkani Hintsa kaKhawuta in Gcuwa

By Sinxolo Gqala; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 12 May 2026, the Deputy President of South Africa, His Excellency Mr Paul Mashatile, delivered the keynote address at the Inaugural Annual Salutation and the 191st anniversary commemoration of Kumkani Hintsa kaKhawuta in Gcuwa, in the Mquma Local Municipality, Amathole District.

In his keynote address, the Deputy President emphasised the significance of the country's dual governance system, in which traditional leadership and modern democracy supported one another for the benefit of the people. He said: "As we stand before the Kumkani Hintsa Memorial, let us also stand before the living mantle of traditional leadership. We gather here with a clear and urgent task before us: to advance land rights and socio-economic development; to strengthen traditional institutions; to invest in infrastructure and skills; to promote nation-building and unity; and to finalise the policy and legislative reforms for which our people have long awaited."

In concluding his address, the Deputy President said: "We must confront the pressing social challenges that weigh heavily on our communities. We cannot ignore the cry of our people when municipalities falter, when taps run dry, roads remain broken and housing projects stall. These are not mere service delivery failures; they are violations of human dignity."

Every year, a comprehensive memorialisation programme honours the memory of His Majesty King Hintsa, Aah Zanzolo! The 2026 programme brought together an estimated 3 000 guests, including Eastern Cape Premier Mr Oscar Mabuyane; Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development, Mr Mzwanele Nyhontso; Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, General Bantu Holomisa; executive mayors; kings; traditional and Khoi-San leaders; inter-faith leaders; political party leaders; and representatives from academia, business and the community.



Deputy President Mashatile laying a wreath at the memorial site of King Hintsa.



Deputy President Mashatile delivering the keynote address during the Annual Salutation and 191st anniversary commemoration of King Hintsa kaKhawuta.



Guests and community members attending the programme.



Deputy President Mashatile joined by AmaXhosa King Ahlangane Vulikhaya Sigcawu, unveiling King Hintsa's memorial site in Gcuwa.



Deputy President Mashatile, together with Premier Mabuyane and Deputy Minister Holomisa, saluting the monumental bust of His Majesty King Hintsa.

PRIORITY 3: BUILD A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Children are our future and should be protected at all costs

By Nontuthuko Ngubane; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 8 May 2026, the Government Communication and Information System, in partnership with various stakeholders, hosted a successful Child Protection Month (CPM) mall activation at eSikhawini Mall.

CPM is commemorated annually to raise awareness of children's rights and the need to protect them from harm. During this period, key government departments, child protection services and various civil society organisations intensify efforts to mobilise all sectors of society to safeguard children, address persistent social ills and strengthen areas requiring focused development and intervention.

This year's CPM campaign shone the spotlight on statutory rape and teenage pregnancy. The campaign is grounded in Section 28 of the South African Constitution of 1996 and a range of child protection legislation that reaffirms the state's obligation to protect children's rights and ensure their well-being and development. It sought to strengthen mandatory reporting and foster collaboration through education, prevention initiatives and support services. The campaign goal is to improve reporting, support survivors, promote community accountability and advance a coordinated, child-centred response to ending violence against children by 2030.

The mall activation also enabled the Department of Health (DoH) to provide services to the public. A mobile clinic was available to assist both young and old, with special attention given to children; recognising their right to medication and healthcare.

Some of the stakeholders included the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Social Development, Legal Aid South Africa, the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, the University of Zululand, City of uMhlatuze officials, Lifeline social workers and Nedbank.

Community member, Ms Sindisiwe Ngcemu, said she was pleased to have received assistance from government departments at the mall.

"I was here at the eSikhawini Mall hoping to buy a few items, but I was glad that I got assisted as I needed medical attention. The local clinic is very far, so this programme assisted me. I also received information on child protection that I was not aware of. Such programmes should continue because they assist us," she said.



GCIS official, Ms Nontuthuko Ngubane, engaging with the young and old on child protection awareness.



Government departments and stakeholders providing information during the child protection awareness session held at eSikhawini Mall.



Legal Aid South Africa and other stakeholders providing information to members of the public during the CPM awareness activation at eSikhawini Mall.



Government departments and stakeholders engage community members on children's rights and protection.



A healthworker from the DoH providing healthcare services to community members during the mall activation.