



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Live broadcast of President's address

By Ephraim Malema and Karabo Diale, GCIS: North West

More than 400 students from the Mankwe Orbit TVET College in Mogwase, North West watched the live broadcast of the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the big screen arranged by the Government Communication and Information System North West Provincial Office.

Another student, Lerato Mokoena, said that the President reminded them that this year, South Africa commemorates 30 years of democracy, and that the address pointed out that our democracy has matured.

Pule Moeng, a student, said that the address by President Ramaphosa was very interesting because it outlined some of government's successes and challenges over the past 30 years and stated that the issue of unemployment was addressed by the President.



Mankwe Orbit TVET College students watching the SoNA.



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PRIORITY I: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Services taken to the people

By Jetrho Grootboom, GCIS: Western Cape

As part of pre-State of the Nation Address (SoNA), the Government Communication, in partnership with the Western Cape Provincial Government, Department of Local Government in the Western Cape and the Thusong Service Centre programme in the provinces hosted a service delivery integration outreach incorporating Government Exhibition Day at Struisbaai on 6 February 2024.

The fishing community of Struisbaai, with a total population of just over 3 000 people, was excited and welcomed the various services and information offered on the day by government and non-governmental institution. Fishermen were afforded an opportunity to check the status on the two-way radio licences for their fishing boats with Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, and fishing permits with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

The Special Investigating Unit, HAWKS, the National Prosecution Authority, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development provided community members with critical information on how they can work closely with law-enforcement agencies to root out corruption and crime in general in their communities.

The National Consumer Commissioner, Office of the Consumer Protector engaged community members on how to report service providers that do not abide with the National Consumer Act, 2008 (Act 68 of 2008), the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture explain and handed out the easy to learn sign language cards.

Community members were also able to check their voter registration status and test their sugar blood pressure levels, with the Department of Health.

Young people engaged with the South African National Defence Force on requirements to apply to the SA Navy, SA Airforce and Military.

Radio Overberg, which is the local community radio station was also present with an outside broadcast to give listeners first-hand information on their mandate by giving each organisation a chance to speak on what they represent and how the community can access their services.

Community members were also made aware of the 2024 SoNA and were invited to watch President Cyril Ramaphosa deliver it.



Community members accessing services and information at various exhibition stalls.



Prudence Faku said:

“The SoNA is important because it tackles the issues the country is facing and how they will be addressed while also indicating the way forward for the country.”



Jacomien McBigger said:

“Watching the SONA will inform residents to know what’s happening around them and what the plans are currently for the youth.”

PRIORITY 1: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Residents eager to watch President’s speech

By Lecrecia Prins, GCIS: Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), together with the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) and other stakeholders held a very successful activation on 2 February 2024 in Upington to raise awareness on the 2024 State of the Nation Address (SoNA), and the second Voter Registration Weekend.

Residents were eager to hear and learn why SoNA is important to them and how they can participate in it.

During the activation, the GCIS informed residents when the President will be addressing the National Assembly where possible can they watch and listen to SoNA, and/or engage in the discussions through social media.

The GCIS office was also joined by the IEC to promote the second Voter Registration Weekend and encourage first-time voters to register to vote on the different platforms available. The IEC reminded the residents about the importance of voting in the upcoming provincial and national elections.



Government officials with other stakeholders raising awareness on SoNA at the Upington taxi rank.



Government officials speaking to a community member about the SoNA.



The handing out of Vuk’uzenzele newspaper and sharing of information about the SoNA.

PRIORITY 1: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Presidential bridge changes lives

By Mlungisi Dlamini, GCIS: KwaZulu-Natal

President Cyril Ramaphosa officially opened the Presidential Welisizwe Bridges at Esigodini on 31 January 2024 in the presence of Cabinet members, KwaZulu-Natal leadership, community members and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) before he met with scores of people and stakeholders at Ngilanyoni Sports Field where he engaged with them on government plans and achievements. The project aimed to provide access to amenities and facilities which naturally would be difficult to access due to natural barriers (rivers and streams) and is a collaboration between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Department of Transport and the SANDF. The President has commended the work of the SANDF and thanked them for their contribution in protecting the country and improving the social well-being of underprivileged communities mainly in rural parts of South Africa. The project forms part of government priority areas, rural development and safe communities.

On the other side still in KwaZulu-Natal, the construction of Welisizwe Bridge at Ngilanyoni (Esigodini) in Mkhambathini Local Municipality has changed local resident's lives for the better.

“Availability of this infrastructure is a great relief to children and parents whose kids had to often cross an overflowing bridge during the rainy season,” said Philisiwe Khuzwayo who is a ward assistant from the area. She said during the rainy season, parents had to accompany children to and from school to ensure their safety.

This solidifies the fact that government continues to prioritise people and has plans to better the lives of South Africans without leaving anyone behind.



President Ramaphosa addressing community members in Ngilanyoni.



President Ramaphosa and various leaders during the handover of the bridge.



Jubilant school children crossing over the newly built bridge.



Philani Luthuli said:

“The SANDF model is unique from other projects because of its specialised equipment. The project has equipped me with essential skill that will help me for the rest of my life. I am also happy for car owners that they will now be able to park in their homes even when it is raining.”



Ben Mkhize said:

“I am grateful that this project has benefited us as people with disabilities. We were treated fairly and equally with other volunteers. I would like to thank the ward councillor for this equal opportunity which has given us the necessary skills.”



Philisiwe Khuzwayo said:

“The availability of this infrastructure is a relief to children and parents who had to crossover an overflowing bridge during rainy season. Parents were forced to accompany their children to and from school when the river was full.”