



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

### EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana  
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
[ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom  
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893  
[yolisa@gcis.gov.za](mailto:yolisa@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

## PRIORITY 2: REDUCE POVERTY AND TACKLE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

### Joe Gqabi District embraces outreach on SASSA card swap

By Tlotlisang Koena; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 25 April 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in collaboration with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), hosted a public education session in James Calata's Masakhane township, Joe Gqabi District Municipality. The purpose of the session was to educate grant beneficiaries on the agency's programme to swap the old gold SASSA cards to the new black Postbank card.

James Calata is a small town along the Eastern Cape's N6 route to East London. The town has very little to no limited government services available, and residents normally travel about 70km to Aliwal North to access government services, which involves paying unaffordable public transport costs. The town has high levels of unemployment and many of its residents depend on social grants. SASSA rendered mobile services on the day, registering qualifying beneficiaries for various grants such as the Social Relief of Distress (SRD), Older Persons, Disability, Children and Foster Care grants; registration

for free basic electricity (FBE); and addressing other existing challenges. The mobile services were greatly appreciated by the community. As there are currently no banks in James Calata, some residents were able to open new bank accounts with ABSA and Nedbank, who partnered with government to bring their service offerings closer to the people.

Mr Bonginkosi Gonyela, a young person interviewed during the session, said that he really appreciated the initiative by the GCIS, as they normally spent lots of money and time travelling to Aliwal North to access services, and sometimes came back without being assisted. "I am happy that today the services came to us, and I managed to get my SRD grant issue sorted out immediately," he said.

There was a large turnout of people at the session and no one was turned away without being assisted.



Residents of Masakhane township came out in numbers to attend SASSA's public education session.



SASSA officials from the Aliwal North branch came to address the residents and render services.



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



#### LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura  
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461  
[thanyani@gcis.gov.za](mailto:thanyani@gcis.gov.za)

#### MPUMALANGA

Poppy Maluka (Acting)  
013 753 2397 or 071 606 3998  
[poppy@gcis.gov.za](mailto:poppy@gcis.gov.za)

#### NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi  
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906  
[boitumelom@gcis.gov.za](mailto:boitumelom@gcis.gov.za)

#### NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti  
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330  
[Ofentse@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Ofentse@gcis.gov.za)

#### WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps  
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200  
[Geraldine@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Geraldine@gcis.gov.za)



Residents queuing to register for different types of grants and address existing clients' challenges.



Some banks were present to assist residents open bank accounts.



Inside the community hall, residents were also able to register for FBE.





**Mr Lesego Mofokeng:**

"I appreciate the opportunity to be able to apply for my identity document at my doorstep."



**Ms Lindiwe Namane:**

"I appreciate the information that I received today, I will share it with others."

## PRIORITY 2: REDUCE POVERTY AND TACKLE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

### **SASSA and GCIS take gold card swap campaign to Evaton community**

*By Tinyiko Molefe; GCIS, Gauteng*

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) is on a drive to swap the old SASSA gold cards to new PostBank black cards. In ensuring that the community receives information about the card swapping process and requirements, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with other stakeholders, hosted an activation to share information with the community of Evaton, Emfuleni Local Municipality, on 24 April 2025.

The event was an opportunity to provide various other government services to the community. The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) was one of the

departments which came out to render services. Mr Sithembele Mbhongo from the DHA, explained the requirements for accessing services from the department and also encouraged residents to contact their offices whenever they needed assistance.

SASSA shared information on the change in cards and that the old gold cards would still be active until further notice, when all beneficiaries had transitioned to the Postbank black card.



Some community members waiting to access services from the DHA.



Mr Mbhongo from the DHA sharing information with residents.



**Ba-Phalaborwa Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji:**  
“Lighting the symbolic candle shows support and government's commitment to the fight against GBVF, HIV and AIDS.”



**The CEO of Maphutha L. Malatjie Hospital, Dr Sello Rasello:**  
“The hospital is combat-ready to assist everyone affected or infected by HIV and AIDS. We also condemn GBVF in our communities.”

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

#### Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa calls for adherence to HIV treatment

By Nkuna Eunice and Hlekani Mathebula; GCIS, Limpopo

Government continues to promote healthy and active lifestyles, activism against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), and education on the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This unwavering effort was displayed when the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality held the annual AIDS Candlelight Memorial at the Humulani Try Again Sports Ground, on 8 May 2025. The Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji, delivered a powerful message of hope and urged residents living with HIV and AIDS to take their medication in order to live long and healthy lives. The event, held under the theme: “Don’t forget to remember”, served as a platform to honour and remember those who tragically lost their lives to AIDS, and to show solidarity with those currently living with HIV.

In her address, Mayor Malatji emphasised the importance of adherence to antiretroviral treatment, highlighting its effectiveness in suppressing the virus and enabling individuals to lead full and productive lives. She reiterated the municipality’s commitment to support individuals living with the virus and ensuring that they had access to healthcare services. Furthermore, Mayor

Malatji addressed the rise in GBVF within the community. She pleaded with residents to foster a culture of peace, love and mutual respect, condemning all forms of violence and urging community members to actively work towards creating a safe and harmonious environment for everyone.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Maphutha L. Malatjie Hospital, Dr Sello Rasello, shared concerning statistics regarding individuals who became untraceable after testing positive for HIV. Dr Rasello reported that an estimated 1.1 million people were missing or untraceable across South Africa, with a significant 48 000 of those cases originating from the Mopani District alone and representing 5% of the national figure.

“Our urgent goal is to locate those individuals by the end of this year. Bringing them back into the healthcare system is crucial to our collective efforts to end the HIV pandemic. We implore anyone with information about these individuals to come forward and assist us in this vital mission,” said Dr Rasello.



Ba-Phalaborwa Pastors Fraternal supported the event by lighting a candle.



A delegation representing the Majeje Tribal Authority came to support government’s efforts to eliminate GBVF, HIV and AIDS.



## PRIORITY 2: REDUCE POVERTY AND TACKLE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

### Mangaung remembers Struggle stalwart during Freedom Month dialogue

*By Libokanyo Mokhadinyana; GCIS, Free State*

“My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom,” said late Struggle stalwart, Solomon Mahlangu, before being hanged by the apartheid government on 6 April 1979. These words were reiterated by the congregation gathered at a community dialogue hosted by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in collaboration with the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA), at Lourierpark Community Hall in Bloemfontein, Mangaung Metro Municipality, on 17 April 2025. The dialogue aimed to commemorate Freedom Month and to amplify the South African Social Security Agency's (SASSA) Card Migration Campaign message.

Freedom Month 2025 completes the 31-year mark since South Africans of all races cast their vote for a democratic state that supports its citizens through programmes such as social grants and the National

Student Financial Aid Scheme. As part of the outreach, SASSA provided mobile services, supported by stakeholders such as the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; MTN South Africa; the National Civic Organisation; SASSA; National Youth Development Agency; as well as Ward 18 council members. The message of the day was clear that freedom is not just a sentiment but a way of life for all.



Ms Libokanyo Mokhadinyana and Ms Gomolemo Meje from the GCIS, distributing information leaflets to participants of the dialogue.



Mr Kgitli Moeketsane delivering a message from SASSA on the current migration of gold cards to Postbank black cards and information on other grants.



A young artist took the opportunity to ask stakeholders some questions and put forward a plea for government support.



A representative from the Motheo Technical Vocational Education and Training College, gave a presentation on higher education in the last 31 years and how the institution worked tirelessly to improve their services to reach top-class level.



**SEDFA Business Advisor, Mr Mokgosi Legae:**  
 "Business development goes hand in glove with personal development because you cannot be a good businessperson without taking advantage of all the government skills and training developments that did not exist under apartheid."