



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 1: INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Minister in The Presidency visits BAIC South Africa to strengthen partnership

By Noluvuyo Mangweni; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 24 May 2025, Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), Ms Maropene Ramokgopa, conducted an oversight visit to the BAIC South Africa car manufacturing plant located in the Coega Development Zone, Gqeberha.

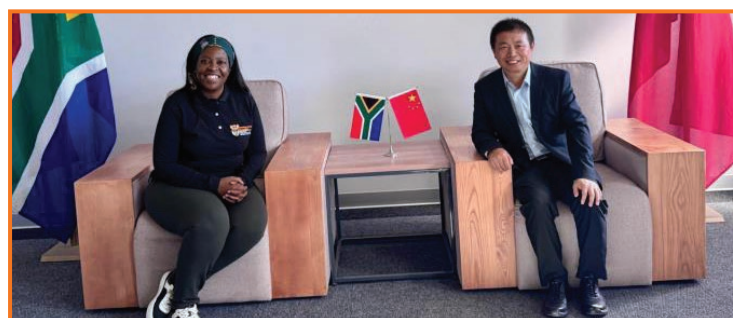
Minister Ramokgopa, who serves as the District Development Model (DDM) Champion for the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, was accompanied by Acting Mayor and Mayoral Committee (MMC) member for Roads and Transport, Cllr Yolisa Jongilanga; MMC for Human Settlements, Cllr Thembinkosi Mafana and senior officials from the DPME.

The primary focus of the visit was to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration between the government and BAIC South Africa to accelerate inclusive development through coordinated reforms and strategic partnerships. Minister Ramokgopa emphasised the importance of leveraging industrial capacity to support local economic growth and job creation,

aligning this with South Africa's broader developmental agenda.

This engagement comes against the backdrop of South Africa's historic Group of Twenty (G20) Presidency, the first ever to be held by an African country. As part of its G20 priorities, South Africa is advocating for inclusive economic growth, industrialisation, innovation and sustainable development. The partnership with BAIC highlights these national goals, demonstrating how strategic investment and local implementation, guided by the DDM, can achieve the country's global commitments.

Minister Ramokgopa stated that the government's approach as part of the Medium Term Development Plan, aimed to strengthen service delivery across all spheres of government and enhance partnerships with the private sector. "Our partnerships with the automotive industry will help us address the issues of skill shortages and unemployment. Investment is vital," she said.



Minister Ramokgopa with the Chief Executive Officer of BAIC South Africa, Mr Yang Yixin.



Mr Yixin taking the Minister and DPME delegation for a walkabout around the plant.



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

The youth and the right to vote

By Maria Ramoshaba; GCIS, Limpopo

On 17 June 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), participated in a radio interview at Waterberg Waves Community Radio Station in Vaalwater. Three young people representing Leseding and Meetsetshehla High Schools were invited to share their views on the importance of participating in elections.

IEC representative, Ms Lettie Sithole, outlined the processes of voter registration and encouraged the youth turning sixteen years to ensure they applied for identity documents in preparation to cast their votes when they reach eighteen years. Eligible youth can register at their nearest IEC offices, local municipalities or on the IEC website. The youth like other people, have a right to exercise their democratic right to vote.

She further emphasised the importance of voting and its crucial role in ensuring effective service delivery in South African communities. "The outcome of elections determines the allocation of resources and budgets for

public services. Through voting, communities can influence the distribution of resources to address their specific needs," said Sithole.

Two of the three pupils indicated that they had never registered to vote, as they did not understand its importance and did not see any changes in the country after elections. They also lamented the issue of long queues at voting stations and technical issues with the machines, which also contributed to them not participating in the elections.

They however, appreciated the enlightenment and education provided by the IEC as they now understood the importance of voting. They undertook to vote in the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections.

Sithole encouraged the youth to make inputs on the IEC website regarding the implementation of electronic voting systems to address the issue of long queues.



Thembani Khumalo, Joseph Kubu, Ms Sithole and Sello Mokgwane at the Waterberg Waves Radio for Youth Dialogue.



Ms Maria Ramoshaba from the GCIS Limpopo Provincial Office outlining the purpose of the interview.



The youth share their views on elections and the importance of voting.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

uMkhanyakude G20 Academia Dialogue a success

By Jacob Mkhize; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Umfolozi Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, Bambanani Campus, based in the Umkhanyakude District Municipality, offers courses such as Farming Management, Public Management, Human Resources Management and NCV Primary Agriculture. The campus was chosen to host the Group of Twenty (G20) Academia Dialogue which took place on 12 June 2025.

A key objective of the G20 dialogue was to ensure that students are not left behind during South Africa's G20 Presidency. South Africa will use the G20 Forum to highlight the interests of Africa. Hosting the G20 dialogue with the Bambanana students was aimed at showcasing the richness of tourism, heritage and agriculture in the Umkhanyakude District. With the dialogue being held during Youth Month, the programme also addressed economic and social issues affecting the youth while also encouraging them to participate in the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections.

For the G20 Academia programme, relevant stakeholders were invited to speak on issues around tourism and the environment, agriculture and labour-related matters to align with courses offered at the Bambanana Campus. Stakeholders that conducted presentations were the departments of Agriculture (DoA), Land Reform and Rural Development, Employment and Labour (DEL), Social Development, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the Independent Electoral Commission and Isimangaliso Wetland Park.

Other stakeholders invited included the District Communicators' Forum, represented by Umhlabyalingana communication personnel. Students were interested to know about available services and opportunities that they could partake in while studying Agriculture Management. They also requested the DoA to assist them with implements for ploughing to conduct practical work within the institution.

Mr Bheki Mbatha, Bambanani Campus Manager, assured students that management was open to working with various stakeholders to equip students with information and knowledge that will transform them post their studies. He assured both the DoA that the campus had enough space for ploughing. "As the institution, we will appreciate any form of assistance from departments," said Mbatha.

There is a need for repeat visits to workshop students on skills to compile a curriculum vitae, job hunting tactics and other related matters. The programme was well received by students since they better understood the what G20 means to them and how it is related to courses offered at the campus.



Students attending the G20 Academia Programme.



GCIS KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Director, Ms Ndala Mngadi outlining the G20 concept and purpose of the programme.



Students engaging with the programme and eager to give inputs.



Mr Eshle Dlamini (Student Representative Council President):

“As students of this campus, we are pleased to be part of the G20 programme. We learnt a lot about the G20 concept and what it means to us. We hope that this is not the last time sector departments come to our campus; instead, we would appreciate seeing more productive programmes held. We wish that people would recognise this college since it offers skills relevant to the outside world. As for Agriculture Management students, we plead with the DoA to consider having an agricultural campus garden where students can undertake practical work. The campus does have land; agriculture has to bring relevant services.”



Ms Nolwazi Ncube:

“I appreciated what the DEL promised to assist us with; however, I am concerned about how they ensure that applications going through them are treated without favouritism. What criteria does the department use to select appropriate candidates for the job?”

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

SAPS Lejweleputswa District hosts successful Youth Crime Prevention session

By Lebogang Molebatsi; GCIS, Free State

The South African Police Service (SAPS) in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality celebrated Youth Month with a highly impactful capacity-building session for young people. The session was held on 13 June 2025 at Jan Hofmeyer SAPS Hall, Welkom.

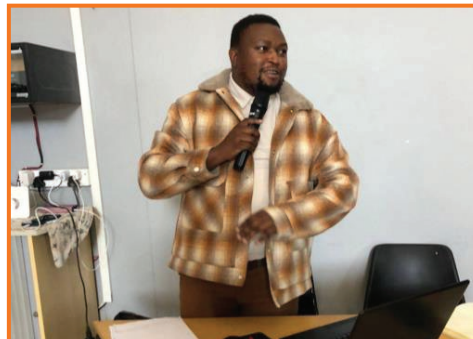
The event, which drew around 90 enthusiastic participants from various police stations across the district, showcased the eagerness of youth in tackling crime and social issues in their communities. The session was designed to equip young people with knowledge, leadership skills and practical tools needed to contribute meaningfully to crime prevention efforts. Through a series of insightful presentations and discussions, participants gained a deeper understanding of the importance of leadership, collaboration and accountability in crime-fighting efforts spearheaded by young people.

The SAPS Lejweleputswa District's initiative to empower youth and promote community-led solutions to crime is a step towards creating safer and more secure communities. By investing in the potential of young people, SAPS is building a stronger future for the district and promoting a culture of community-led crime prevention.

The event demonstrated the district's commitment to empowering the youth and promoting their active participation in crime prevention efforts. Through initiatives like this, the SAPS is working to build a brighter future for young people, while creating a safer, more secure community for all.



Sergeant Majoala Malindi, the Lejweleputswa District Youth Coordinator, presenting an overview of the Youth Crime Prevention Desks.



Mr Sam Mnyombani, District Youth Desk Chairperson, outlining the roles and responsibilities of various portfolios within the SAPS.



Youth participants from various police stations who attended the programme.



Youth engaging in a question-and-answer session.