



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Local Government Thursdays with Kumkani Mhlontlo Local Municipality Mayor

By Phiwokuhle Zokufa and Zama Giqi; GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a Local Government Thursday radio programme at Unitra Community Radio on 21 May 2026. Coordinated by GCIS, the programme provided a platform for the Executive Mayor of Kumkani Mhlontlo Local Municipality, Cllr Mbulelo Jara, to engage communities on matters relating to electricity, access to roads and local economic development.

Cllr Jara outlined key priorities of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the current financial year. He said that the municipality was focusing on improving road infrastructure to enhance access to jobs, schools and clinics. He also addressed service-delivery challenges and the interventions being implemented to resolve them.

"The municipality is addressing youth unemployment by introducing programmes that create opportunities for young people through skills development, internships, learnerships and support for small businesses," said Cllr Jara. He further emphasised the municipality's commitment to empowering young people through innovation, local economic development and inclusive service delivery; ensuring that they actively participate in building stronger and sustainable communities.

The programme also enabled the mayor to address the low voter turnout among young people. He used the platform to encourage young people around the municipality to register to vote.



Local Government Thursday radio programme hosted on Unitra FM.



Cllr Mbulelo Jara outlined the municipality's IDP during the programme.



GCIS officials participated in a community radio programme in partnership with Kumkani Mhlontlo Local Municipality to discuss local government issues.



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

GCIS educates Bhobhoi youth about the Constitution and Youth Month commemorations

By Khanyiso Seyisi; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a public education programme at the Tolomane Mnyayiza Youth Development Centre in Bhobhoi, under the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality on 25 May 2026. The programme formed part of activities to commemorate 30 years of South Africa's Constitution and the 50th anniversary of the 1976 youth uprising.

The programme aimed to educate and empower young people by highlighting the significance of constitutional democracy and the important role of youth in shaping the country's future.

Participants included young entrepreneurs and trainees involved in welding, catering, fashion design, sewing, arts and crafts and other vocational skills programmes. The session also provided information on available government

and private-sector support services aimed at promoting youth development, economic participation and skills advancement.

Several stakeholders participated in the programme including the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, Ray Nkonyeni Municipality's Local Economic Development unit, Kwazulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Department of Social Development, GCIS, Nedbank, First National Bank and Ugu District Disaster Management.

The engagement encouraged young people to take advantage of available opportunities and to contribute meaningfully to the development of their communities.



Ms Thato Ndlovu addressing young people who attended the public education programme held at the Tolomane Mnyayiza Youth Development Centre.



Young people from the Bhobhoi area in attendance.



GCIS Regional Communication Coordinator, Mr Khanyiso Seyisi, shared information on the Constitution and Youth Month commemorations.

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

Namakgale faith community gets involved in Child Protection Week awareness

By Eunice Nkuna and Constable Felicia Rikhotso; GCIS, Limpopo

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Namakgale Police Station and Namakgale AFM Christian Divine Covenant, worked together as key stakeholders to observe Child Protection Week on 31 May 2026.

The awareness event aimed to educate communities and encourage them to protect children's rights. As part of the partnership, Namakgale AFM mobilised church and community members to attend the event, where they were educated on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), child safety and kidnapping.

Education was promoted as a key safeguard to help children recognise available opportunities to them. This year's local theme: "Safeguarding the Future Through Education", encouraged children to view education as a path to a safer and brighter future. The message emphasised that when communities worked together to keep children in school, their exposure to violence could be reduced.

Graduates wore academic regalia to motivate children to take their education seriously. The Sunday School also showcased children's talents, knowledge and understanding of safety, education and positive values.

Warrant Officer Mawila said that violence against children was often linked to GBVF in the home. "A child who is exposed to violence may later face serious social challenges such as dropping out of school or engaging in criminal activities," she said.

The GCIS Limpopo Provincial Director, Mr Thanyani Ravhura, said that effective community partnerships between government and community stakeholders played an important role in providing reliable information and dispelling disinformation and misinformation.

Constable Rikhotso said that the event strengthened the community's commitment to protecting children and securing their future.



Warrant Officer Mawila from Namakgale Police Station addresses the congregation during the Child Protection Week awareness event.



Children from Namakgale AFM perform an item during the event.



Members of the Community Policing Forum in attendance at Namakgale AFM church.



Namakgale AFM Sunday School children rehearse for their performance during the Child Protection Week programme.

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

Mafube Local Municipality residents commemorate 30 years of the Constitution

By Morena Motloun; GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with various government departments and agencies, successfully hosted a public education and awareness programme to commemorate the 30 years of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, under the umbrella campaign, Milestones of Democracy. The programme took place in Frankfort, Mafube Local Municipality, on 25 May 2026.

The programme targeted young people participating in skills development and training programmes facilitated and sponsored by the Free State Provincial Government (FSPG) through the Premier's Office. Beneficiaries came from different towns in the Mafube Local Municipality including Tweeling, Cornelia, Villiers and Frankfort.

Mafube Local Municipality is a rural, agricultural municipality that continues to experience high unemployment and slow economic growth. In response to these challenges, the FSPG is supporting youth development and training programmes in sectors such as construction, plumbing and environmental services. These programmes benefit approximately 200 young people.

Various departments and entities including the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), Office of the Premier's Skills Development unit, the National Youth Development Agency, Legal Aid South Africa, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and Mafube Local Municipality, collaborated with GCIS during the programme. They shared information and created awareness about their key achievements and services, in line with their constitutional and the broader milestones of democracy.

The IEC educated participants about voting as a constitutional right and a cornerstone of democracy. GCIS also encouraged young people to participate in the country's electoral processes to strengthen democracy, protect its gains and contribute meaningfully to South Africa's development.

The young participants engaged actively during the programme and welcomed its objectives. They also expressed appreciation to GCIS and its partners for bringing them important government information and awareness.



Mr George Ntsoane, Learnership Facilitator and service provider at Dot Centre, outlined the objectives and provided an overview of the programme.



Mr Serame Mofokeng, Facilitator at the Parliamentary Constituency Office, provided background on the collaboration with GCIS to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Constitution and the Milestones of Democracy campaign.



Ms Ajenthia Naidoo, Career Counsellor from the DEL, shared the department's achievements in maintaining the Public Employment Services database and supporting young people through workplace readiness programmes.



Ms Feziwe Radebe, Democracy Education Facilitator from the IEC, shared information on voter participation and democracy education to encourage active citizenship.



Ms Ntshepiseng Mokoena, participant and beneficiary of the Youth Skills Development and Training Programme, took part in the question-and-answer session.