



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Dr JS Moroka Municipality hosts 2025 Youth Entrepreneurship Summit

By Zwanga Matsila; GCIS, Mpumalanga

Under the theme: "Skills for the Changing World: Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation", the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality hosted a Youth Entrepreneurship Summit on 18 June 2025. Targeting youth from across the municipality, the event was held at the Dr JS Moroka Municipal Chambers within the Nkangala District Municipality. The summit aimed to promote education and skills development and outline available funding and training opportunities to prepare youth for active participation in the economy.

In her keynote address, Executive Mayor of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, Cllr Nomsa Sanny Motsweni reflected on the legacy of the 1976 youth uprising. "The 1976 generation proved that a united youth can reshape society and no force can stand in their way," she said.

"As part of our municipality's priorities to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods, we will continue partnering with government and private stakeholders to foster an environment where young people can gain skills and access economic opportunities," she added.

Stakeholders including the National Youth Development Agency, Alternative Energy Development Corporation, Transformation Legacy, SMME Independent Insurance Broker, NASREC, ABSA and the departments of Small Business Development and Agriculture, played a vital role by providing youth with access to entrepreneurship funding, training programmes and mentorship opportunities.



The youth of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality attending the entrepreneurship summit.



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PRIORITY 1: INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Youth economic empowerment programme held in Wedela

By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

On 13 June 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Wedela Community Development Workers (CDWs) to host a youth economic empowerment programme in Wedela, Merafong City. The event aimed to equip young people with information about government programmes and initiatives that can empower them.

The programme featured representatives from various government departments and agencies, including the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), Department of Health, Merafong City Local Municipality, and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

Ms Nompilo Tali from DEL highlighted the importance of job seekers registering on the departments' employment database which allows prospective employers to find them. She explained the services offered

by the department to support youth in their career development and job search. She said, "Our aim as a department is to encourage young people to utilise the services available to empower them. We also prepare individuals for interviews and equip them with confidence and knowledge they need when meeting with prospective employers."

IEC representative, Ms Ntombi Thakhuli, emphasised the crucial role of youth participation in the democratic and electoral processes and the importance of young people exercising their right to vote. The presentation aimed to inspire and educate youth on the value of their participation in shaping the future of their country. The event was part of Youth Month celebrations, demonstrating government's commitment to supporting and empowering young people in the community of Wedela.



Ms Tali from DEL presenting on different services rendered by the department and available government programmes aimed at empowering and uplifting the youth.



Ms Tshidi Mokoka from GCIS and Ms Pinky Sising from Cogta distributing information packages to youth attending the event.



Ms Buhle Zadunge said:

“As a young person I learnt from the IEC how important it is to participate in democratic processes. This will also allow us as young people to take decisions on programmes and plans that are made to empower us.”



Mr Ayanda Tsolpileyo said:

“I am grateful for the information received from DEL. Today I learnt about the importance of applying for jobs using their services.”

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

G20 Youth Workshop Dialogue empowers future leaders in Louwville

By Esmarelda Mckay; GCIS, Western Cape

A spirit of enthusiasm and collaboration filled the air as 25 local young adults gathered for the Group of Twenty (G20) Youth Workshop Dialogue held on 19 June 2025, at Louwville Saldana Bay Local Municipality. The dynamic event was aimed at empowering future leaders through engagement, education and community-driven action.

Held at the local library which graciously opened its doors for the occasion, the workshop was a result of collaborative efforts between the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), ELRU, and the Department of Social Development (DSD). The event was designed as a platform for youth to explore their role in advancing the key priorities of the G20, particularly in the areas of youth empowerment and economic development.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, exchanging ideas and reflecting on how they can become agents of change in their communities. A standout moment was the keynote session on NYDA grant funding which provided practical insights on how young people can access

resources to bring their visions to life. In another highlight, the DSD facilitated an interactive session that challenged participants to identify pressing local issues and collaboratively design youth-led solutions.

The atmosphere was electric, charged with purpose, thoughtful reflection and a shared commitment to progress. The workshop affirmed the importance of giving young people not only a voice but also a stake in shaping their future.

Looking ahead, phase 2 of the initiative will transition into a more hands-on phase, focusing on skills development. Participants will receive training in business planning and proposal writing, giving them practical tools needed to transform their ideas into tangible ventures.

The workshop marked a powerful beginning that sows the seeds for a generation of informed, confident and proactive young leaders determined to drive positive change in their communities and beyond.



Group presentation focusing on social ills experienced in the community and proposing possible solutions.



The first group who participated in the G20/ NYDA session.



NYDA official, Mr Justin Moore giving a breakdown of the grant funding available for youth.



During group presentations, young people gave their inputs on economic development in the community.

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

Information session on bullying empowers learners

By Lecrecia Prins; GCIS, Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), together with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Department of Social Development (DSD), the South African Police Service (SAPS), Fearless Child and the Thuthuzela Care Centre, held an information-sharing session at the Orange Oewer Intermediate School in Upington, ZF Mgcau District on 4 June 2025.

The information session that forms part of Youth Month commemorations focused on child protection and children's rights and responsibilities. The session targeted learners in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. GCIS officials shared with learners the significance of both Child Protection Week and Youth Month in South Africa. This month forms a critical part of the country's history as we reflect on the sacrifices made by young people who fought for equality, freedom and social justice back in 1976.

During the session, Ms Eloise Du Plessis from the NPA, a community prosecutor in Upington, encouraged learners to respect their rights and the responsibilities that accompanies each right.

"Do not bully one another, and for those who have been victims of bullying, report such cases, as it is a criminal offence," highlighted du Plessis. The NPA works with different stakeholders like the Thuthuzela care centres to prosecute perpetrators of crime, especially against women and children.

Ms Agnes Molefe from DSD informed learners about the dangers of engaging in sexual relationships with older people as that is deemed statutory rape. "People are not allowed to use their powers to force you into having relationships with them," stressed Ms Molefe.

The SAPS also encouraged learners to speak to their teachers and report crimes to the police or a trusted friend or family member.

Mr Lionel Josephs, school principal at the school, said the information session was very informative and needed for the learners. "If we could have such sessions at least once a month, many social ills emanating from home will be addressed."

Some of the learners mentioned that they enjoyed the session as receiving such information empowers them a lot.

Then information session that reached approximately 200 learners is one of many that will be held throughout the month of June at different schools.



GCIS official, Ms Lecrecia Prins, addressing learners about Child Protection Week and the significance of Youth Month.



NPA community prosecutor addressing learners about bullying and its effects.



An official of DSD speaking to learners about statutory rape.



Oranje Oewer Intermediate School learners at the information-sharing session with stakeholders.



SAPS officer talking about the importance of learners reporting crimes to their teachers, police, adults or people that can be trusted in order to protect them and fight crimes against children.