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

Langebaan Thusong Centre hosts Nelson Mandela Day event

By Esmarelda Mckay; GCIS, Western Cape

On 21 July 2025, the Langebaan Thusong Service Centre came alive as stakeholders gathered to celebrate Mandela Day under the theme “Together we can make a difference”. This impactful day saw collaboration between the Government Communication and Information System, Mfesane, South African Police Service, Langebaan E-Centre, Langebaan Spar, House of Hair, local barbers, hair stylists and Dynamic Health Care.

More than 60 school children from the local community were treated to free grooming services including haircuts, hairstyling and nail care. The goal was to help boost their confidence and prepare them for the school term ahead. While learners received pampering, they also benefited from a short civic

education session, where the legacy of Nelson Mandela and the importance of community upliftment was shared.

The atmosphere was filled with compassion and unity, reflecting Madiba’s vision of service to others. Local businesses and individuals generously offered their time, skills and resources, demonstrating that when a community works together, real change is possible.

This Mandela Day served as a shining example of active citizenship and social cohesion in Langebaan, proving that small acts of kindness can have a lasting impact.



All local stakeholders who supported the day.



Local barbers who gladly volunteered to be part of the day.

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The team from House of Hair was very excited to be part of the program.



One of the hairstyles.



Ms Elizabeth Samuels:

"It is a privilege for me to help our children look beautiful for school."



Seargent Yolandi Jantjies:

"I am so excited to make a difference in our young ones' lives. Sharing safety tips with them made my day."



Ms Rowina Corizen from Mfesane:

"I love giving back and today was an honour to serve the children with a warm cup of soup."

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

G20 dialogue promotes community accountability and leadership

By Tlotlisang Koena; GCIS, Eastern Cape

In honour of the spirit of Mandela Month, the Government Communication and Information System in the Joe Gqabi District, hosted a Group of Twenty (G20) Thought Leadership Community Dialogue. The session was held in Lady Grey at the Transwilger Community Hall on 25 July 2025.

The dialogue aimed to engage the community on a solution-orientated approach to dealing with crime, the decline in professional education, overcoming unemployment through entrepreneurship and restoring morals and ethics in the community.

The panellists who led the topics included the chairperson of Lady Grey Arts Academy Student Governing Body, Mr Khwezi Dyasi, who dealt with the topic of sustaining professional education to raise community leaders. Mr Mkhululi Ndlela, the Managing Director of Ndlela Investments Holdings, dealt with the topic of encouraging entrepreneurship to fight poverty in the community. Warrant

Officer Mvaxa from Lady Grey South African Police Service (SAPS), dealt with overcoming crime through leadership in the community. The last panellist, Pastor Simon Lumkwana, a leader of the Lady Grey Faith-Based Organisation, addressed the topic of restoring ethics and morals in the community through leadership.

During the dialogue, community members made valuable inputs about creative ways that government can implement to fight crime. They also raised the fact that they had various skills that they wanted to use to start social enterprises in their communities to tackle poverty. "Today I have learnt so much on the importance of leadership in the community and the importance of not always pointing at the government to take responsibility for the social ills in my community. We all have a responsibility to improve the situation in our community," said community member, Ms Martha Pieterse.



Community members of Transwilger township listen attentively during the dialogue.



Transwilger resident, Pastor Lumkwana, making an input after a presentation by SAPS on overcoming crime.



Community member, Ms Pieterse, making inputs during the dialogue.



Mr Dyasi presenting on the importance of education to raise leaders.

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

Late MEC remembered for promoting social cohesion in education

By Morena Motlounq; GCIS, Free State

On 25 July 2025, Member of Executive Council (MEC) for the Free State Department of Education, Dr Mamiki Julia Maboya, led a successful commemoration of the momentous “Tumahole Day” with senior learners from various secondary schools around Tumahole township. The commemoration was observed through a street march that commenced from the Ngwathe Local Municipal offices to Phehellang Secondary School.

Dr Maboya was flanked by senior officials, school principals and district directors from the Department of Education in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality. Dr Vusimuzi Chuta, who participated in the march, shared the rich history of Tumahole and the objective of hosting the event with learners and community members.

He said the primary objective was to join hands with the society and families of fallen struggle heroes from Tumahole township, including late MEC for the Department of Education, Dr Tate Makgoe, who led the department to greater heights of being the best performing province according to Matric Senior Certificate results.

MEC Maboya said, “Dr Makgoe left behind a towering legacy of transformation in education in the province, proving that excellence and compassion can indeed co-exist in service.”



Dr Chuta, Fezile Dabi District Director from the Department of Education, providing an overview on the state of education in the district and presenting the purpose of the programme.



Dr Maboya delivering her keynote address during the commemoration of Tumahole Day.



Learners of Phehellang Secondary School walking the MEC's entourage to the main venue.



Learners pledge support for the fight against bullying.

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

G20 Workshop held in KZN to empower local communities

By Vasanthi Naidoo; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

With South Africa hosting the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit in November and holding working group meetings, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), together with eThekweni Business Support, Cllr Sihle Mazibuko, the OSS War Room and community development workers, held an Economic Empowerment Workshop at the Nkanyisweni Hall, KwaMashu Section. The workshop was held on 16 July 2025 to inform and educate attendees on the purpose of the G20 and possible resultant economic opportunities.

The workshop sought to empower informal traders, entrepreneurs and owners of small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMME) with information that will enable them to benefit from possible economic opportunities emanating not only from the G20 working group meetings but also from similar events in Durban.

The Inanda, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu (INK) areas are rich in cultural heritage and is home to the Inanda Heritage Route which is a tourist destination. Stakeholders were informed on issues related to business

compliance, registration, bylaws, permits, environmental health and hygiene and financial and non-financial resources available.

Stakeholders included the eThekweni Business Support, Environmental Health, Cleansing and Solid Waste, the National Empowerment Fund (NEF), Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, INK Community Tourism Organisation and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. The NEF informed the audience about the Spaza Shop Fund and took them through the application process.

Attendees appreciated the opportunity to engage with stakeholders and get clarity on various issues relating to SMMEs, informal trading and business start-ups. The GCIS distributed information on the G20 translated into isiZulu.



Audience attendance and engagement during the session.



Cllr Sihle Mazibuko on Inanda FM mobilising the community and informing listeners on the benefits of South Africa presiding over the G20.



GCIS Information Desk display.



Mr Mlungisi Shabalala from the NEF providing information about the Spaza Shop Fund.