



MYDISTRICTTODAY



A **NATION** THAT **WORKS** FOR ALL

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

Northern Cape commemorates Women's Day in Kakamas

By Lecrecia Prins; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 9 August 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality joined the Northern Cape Provincial Government to commemorate Women's Day in Kakamas, Kai !Garib Local Municipality.

The event coincided with the 70th anniversary of the historic 1956 Women's March against pass laws and the struggle for freedom. In 1956, more than 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings to protest against the extension of pass laws and the Urban Areas Act of 1923.

Held under the theme "Empowered Women Empower Nations", the commemoration paid tribute to the women of 1956 who fought for human rights, gender equality and social justice.

Delivering the keynote address, Northern Cape Premier Dr Zamani Saul, encouraged women to support one another and work together to uplift their communities. He also called on eligible voters to exercise their democratic right by participating in the upcoming Local Government Elections (LGEs).

Dr Saul said LGEs are among the most important elections, as they allow citizens to elect ward councillors who serve directly in their communities. He urged voters to choose leaders committed to positive change and improving the lives of residents at local level.



Dr Saul addressing the 70th anniversary of Women's Day in Kakamas.



Executive Mayor of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Cllr Maryna Basson, attending the 2026 Women's Day commemoration.



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Member of the Executive Council for the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, Ms Limakatso Kolozi, directing the official programme.



Residents of Kai !Garib Local Municipality came out in numbers to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Women's Day.



Government departments exhibiting their services during Women's Day celebrations.



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

Mpumalanga honours women's contribution to society

By Joy Themba; GCIS Mpumalanga

On 9 August 2026, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government joined the nation in commemorating Women's Day. The commemoration paid tribute to the courage and resilience of the women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956, and the generations of women who continue to advance their legacy.

The event was held at the Agincourt Sports Ground in Bushbuckridge. It brought together government leaders, traditional leaders, community members and stakeholders to celebrate the important contribution women make to South African society.

The event was attended by members of the Mpumalanga Executive Council and executive mayors, including Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Lydia Moroane-Zitha, and Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Nomsa Mtsweni. Held under the theme "Empowered Women Empower Nations", the commemoration served as a reminder that society's progress must be measured by the dignity, safety and opportunities afforded to women.

Members of the Executive Council (MECs) visited exhibition stalls hosted by government departments and engaged with officials on the services being provided to communities. They also visited stalls run by black-owned businesses, where they encouraged entrepreneurs to expand market access for their products through partnerships with local supermarkets, retail outlets and clothing stores.

The leaders commended the entrepreneurs for promoting locally produced goods, including indigenous foods, traditional garments and other products that contribute to economic development and job creation in communities. Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena, Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, delivered a message of support. He reaffirmed the commitment to advancing the upliftment and empowerment of women, particularly those living in rural communities.

Delivering the keynote address, Acting Premier and MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Ms Leah Mabuza, called on all sectors of society to champion the empowerment of women and girls. MEC Mabuza emphasised the importance of creating opportunities that enable women to participate meaningfully in the economy, communities and leadership structures. She said the empowerment of women is essential to building inclusive and prosperous communities, and reaffirmed government's commitment to ensuring that women are afforded equal opportunities to succeed.

The provincial government reiterated its commitment to working with women across Mpumalanga to ensure that empowerment goes beyond speeches and policies, and becomes a lived reality in homes, workplaces and communities. As South Africa reflects on the legacy of the historic 1956 Women's March, Mpumalanga continues to draw inspiration from the bravery and determination of those women. Seventy years later, their footsteps continue to guide efforts to build a society in which women are empowered, protected and given equal opportunities to contribute to the development of the province and the country.



Mpumalanga MECs visited exhibition stalls and engaged with exhibitors.



Acting Premier and MEC Mabuza engaged with business owners who had benefitted from funding and loans from the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency and the Small Enterprise Development Finance Agency. She encouraged them to seek markets locally and internationally to grow their businesses.



Community members listened attentively to speakers during the Women's Day commemoration.



Joy Hope



The Department of Health handed over 10 wheelchairs to identified persons with disabilities whose wheelchairs needed replacement. The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs donated seedlings and kitchen utilities to a local centre.



In his message of support, Kgoshi Mokoena called on men to love, support and protect women at all times. Acting Premier and MEC Mabuza delivered the keynote address.



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

Women's Month GBV street march brings services and awareness to Ward 11

By Sandiswa Stuurman; GCIS, Eastern Cape

As South Africa marks the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Women's March, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with Chris Hani District Municipality, hosted a Women's Month gender-based violence (GBV) street march on 7 August 2025.

The march took place in Ward 11, Emabangalweni, popularly known as "Bangladesh", under Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about GBV and encourage communities to take a stand against all forms of violence against women and children. It also promoted health awareness, democracy education and access to government services through the "services on wheels" approach.

Stakeholders used the march to honour the courage and resilience of women who participated in the 1956 Women's March. They also highlighted the ongoing fight against GBV and the need for communities to work together to build safer communities.

The march culminated in a service-delivery activation, which brought essential government services closer to residents. Community members accessed information and services, and engaged with government representatives on issues affecting their daily lives.

The event further emphasised the importance of community participation in building safer and more informed communities. Partnerships between government structures and local communities remain vital in raising awareness, encouraging the reporting of GBV and linking residents to available support services.

Communities were encouraged to work together to end GBV and build a society where women and children can live free from fear and violence. The event also demonstrated government's continued commitment to taking services directly to communities and empowering residents through information, education and meaningful engagement.



Stakeholders providing services on wheels after the street march.



GBV street march at Emabangalweni.



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

Women walking together through history and hope

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

On 7 August 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Central Karoo District joined the Beaufort West Museum to commemorate National Women's Month through the inspiring Walk Like a Woman March. The event honoured the courage of South African women and reflected on the ongoing journey towards a more equal and safer society.

The march began at the historic Mandlenkosi Clinic and ended at Voëltjiespark. More than 180 participants took part and stopped along the route to visit important heritage sites that tell the story of the community. The Mandlenkosi area has a significant history. It was renamed in 1985 in honour of Mandlenkosi "Tsaka" Kratchi, a 24-year-old anti-apartheid activist and boxer who was killed during a police raid.

The event formed part of South Africa's Women's Month commemorations under the 2026 national theme, "Building Resilient Women for a Sustainable Future". The theme recognises the strength, leadership and resilience of women. It also calls on all sectors of society to remove barriers that prevent women and girls from reaching their full potential. The theme further reminds South Africans that gender equality is not only a women's issue, but a national imperative that requires the commitment of everyone.

At Voëltjiespark, the programme focused on the challenges women continue to face in contemporary South Africa. Speakers highlighted the importance of women's health, encouraged greater awareness of available health services and promoted healthy lifestyles as an essential part of women's empowerment. The programme also addressed one of the country's most serious social challenges: gender-based violence and femicide. Participants were reminded that ending violence against women requires more than awareness campaigns. It demands consistent action from families, communities, institutions and government to build safer environments where women and girls can live free from fear.

A meaningful moment came when representatives of MenCare made a public pledge to remain active partners in the fight against gender-based violence. Their commitment reinforced the message that men have an important role to play in promoting respect, challenging harmful gender norms and creating communities where women are protected, valued and heard.

The Walk Like a Woman March demonstrated that Women's Month is not only about celebrating achievements, but also about acknowledging the work that remains to be done. The event recognised the resilience of women who continue to lead families, strengthen communities and drive development despite ongoing challenges.



Women leading the charge during the Walk Like a Woman March.



Beaufort West Executive Mayor, Cllr Georgina Duimpies.



Right to Care sharing information on women's health and the importance of cancer screening.



Women from various government departments participated in the march.