



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

Southern African Development Community outreach

By Maria Ramoshaba; GCIS, Limpopo

On 18 August 2026, the Government Communication and Information System embarked on a campaign to inform and educate community members about the role and purpose of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

During the engagement with people at the taxi rank, it was observed that many community members were not aware of South Africa's SADC chairpersonship or the organisation's objectives.

Community members were informed that SADC consists of 16 countries: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The main objective of SADC is to promote sustainable economic growth, regional integration, poverty alleviation, peace and security, as well as an improved quality of life for the people of Southern Africa.

Mr Lesiba Kgasago from Moletji indicated that the President should emphasise the issue of foreign nationals in the country, noting concerns about illegal immigration and crime. He further appealed to presidents attending SADC meetings to focus on improving the quality of life of citizens in their respective countries and reducing the number of people migrating to South Africa.



GCIS Limpopo office embarks on SADC outreach.



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

GCIS and Scenery Park community unite against GBVF

By Qiqa Gqobo; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 7 August 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Buffalo City Metro, in partnership with Masimanyane Women's Rights International, the Department of Community Safety, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality District Community Policing Forum and the community of Scenery Park, conducted a gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) street march. The march aimed to raise awareness about the scourge of GBVF and encourage the community to play its part in fighting this social ill.

The march commenced at the Scenery Park entrance bridge and proceeded towards the Scenery Park Police Station. Participants demonstrated their support for the fight against GBVF and called for safer communities where women and children can live without fear of violence. At the Scenery Park Police Station, GCIS Regional Communications Coordinator in the Buffalo City Metro, Ms Lindokuhle Nxazonke, and Programmes Manager at Masimanyane,

Ms Farida Myburgh, spoke about the importance of communities standing together and acting against GBVF. The community formally handed over a signed petition to the South African Police Service (SAPS), calling for stronger action and continued efforts to address GBVF in communities.

SAPS and the Department of Community Safety welcomed the petition and committed to working with the community and other stakeholders to address GBVF. Community members were also encouraged to speak out, report abuse and work together to make Scenery Park a safer place for women and children.

The activation encouraged residents to continue supporting initiatives that promote awareness and prevention against GBVF. It also formed part of the Women's Month activities and the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Women's March.



Residents of Scenery Park demonstrated their support during the GBVF street march.



SAPS and the Department of Community Safety received the petition from the community.



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

Minister Majodina hands over water and sanitation projects to communities in Victor Khanye Local Municipality

By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 11 August 2026, as part of government's ongoing commitment to improving access to basic services and enhancing the quality of life in communities, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) supported the Department of Water and Sanitation's service-delivery drive led by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pemmy Majodina, in Mimosa Village, Victor Khanye Local Municipality.

The Minister, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation and other political principals in the province, officially handed over 100 completed low-flush household sanitation systems and a decentralised water-supply system, bringing much-needed relief to approximately 500 residents. The initiative forms part of government's efforts to address water and sanitation challenges in underserved communities and ensure sustainable access to essential services.

Following the handover ceremony, Minister Majodina proceeded to the Eloff Community Hall, where she engaged directly with community members and listened to their concerns and experiences regarding service delivery. "This is how we are expanding the President's call for our intervention. Two hundred and fifty households at Savanna Village benefited, and 200 at Brakfontein. During project implementation, women and young people were appointed and benefited through employment opportunities. I want to call on all young people who benefited from these projects to plough back into the community by helping to monitor and assist older persons whenever they encounter challenges that need attention for the smooth running and continued use of water-supply systems," said Minister Majodina during her keynote address.

Residents of Eloff and surrounding areas welcomed the initiatives and expressed appreciation for government's efforts to address longstanding water and sanitation challenges.



Ms Jabulile Nkosi:

"We are pleased to be part of the event. Our learners have learnt a lot about saving water as a community, in our households, at school and as individuals."

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

From Langa to democracy: A freedom story to remember

By Jetrho Grootboom; GCIS, Western Cape

On 11 August 2026, the Western Cape turns reflected on the people, events and sacrifices that shaped South Africa's democracy as the Milestones of Freedom Campaign was launched in Cape Town.

Led by Deputy Minister (DM) in the Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong, together with provincial and local government leaders, the Western Cape launch formed part of a nationwide programme to commemorate defining moments in South Africa's journey from apartheid to democracy.

Remembering those who paid the price for freedom

The programme began with a visit to the Truter family in Bonteheuwel, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at Maitland Cemetery in honour of Mr Christopher Truter.

Mr Truter was among the young learners from Cape Town's coloured communities who lost their lives during the 1976 student uprisings. His story is a reminder that the courage of young people extended beyond Soweto and reached communities across the Western Cape. The delegation also paid tribute to Mr Xolile Mosie by visiting his family before laying a wreath at his graveside at Maitland Cemetery. Mr Mosie lost his life during the 1976 student uprisings in Langa. These were not simply names recorded in history books; they were young people whose courage became part of South Africa's road to freedom.

At Langa Methodist Church, the symbolic Torch of Freedom was lit, carrying the flame of remembrance from one generation to the next. The commemoration continued at Langa High School, where a candlelight ceremony and the unveiling of the Fishpond created a moment of reflection on the events of June 1976 and the sacrifices made by young people in the struggle for justice.

The day culminated in an intergenerational dialogue at Langa High School, where DM Morolong delivered the keynote address. The dialogue connected the past with the present by reflecting on some of South Africa's defining milestones, including 30 years of the Constitution, which remains the foundation of

human dignity, equality, freedom and social justice; 50 years since the 1976 Youth Uprisings, which honours young people who stood up against apartheid education and inspired generations of youth activism; 70 years since the Women's March, which recognises the courageous women who challenged oppressive pass laws and helped shape the struggle for freedom; 60 years since the District Six forced removals, which remembers communities torn from their homes while celebrating their resilience and determination; and 70 years since the Anti-Pass Campaign, which acknowledges the long struggle for freedom of movement, dignity and fundamental rights.

Launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Union Buildings in June 2026, the Milestones of Freedom Campaign is about more than remembering history. It is about turning the lessons of the past into action today. Through public dialogues, civic education, cultural programmes, youth engagements, commemorative activities and access to government services – including identity document services, health outreach, housing support and assistance for small businesses – the campaign connects South Africa's democratic heritage with the everyday needs of communities.

Freedom was hard won. Democracy was built through courage, sacrifice and resilience. It is not something we simply inherit; it is something every generation must protect, participate in and strengthen.

For young South Africans especially, the message is clear: know your history, know your Constitution, know your rights, participate in your democracy and be part of building the South Africa you want to see.

The Milestones of Freedom Campaign reminds South Africans that the Constitution is not just a document; it is a living commitment to dignity, equality, justice and opportunity for all. Yesterday's sacrifices built today's freedom, and today's choices will shape tomorrow's South Africa.



DM Morolong laying wreaths at the gravesides of Mr Truter and Mr Mosie during the Milestone of Freedom Campaign.



DM Morolong, stakeholders and family members participate in the lighting of the torch and candles.



DM Morolong engages with Langa High School learners on Cape Town's history of freedom and democracy during the 1976 youth uprisings.

