



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

GCIS and IEC conduct public education on voter registration and elections

By Lecrecia Prins and Phumla Matole: GCIS, Northern Cape

On 21 August 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the ZF Mgcawu District, held a public awareness session with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) at the Louisvleweg Youth Centre. The session focused on the importance of registering to vote as well as opportunities within the IEC for young people. The session provided an opportunity for interaction where young people could raise their concerns and get much-needed information from officials regarding registering and voting.

Ms Lecrecia Prins, GCIS ZF Mgcawu Regional Communications Coordinator, led the session, encouraging young people to make sure they use such opportunities to get verified and accurate information from IEC about voting and registrations instead of following myths.

Mr Randal Tsolo from IEC spoke to the group of young people about the importance of educating voters and ensure that residents understand the

importance of registering and voting. The session was also used to check if attendants were registered in their correct voting district.

Ms Miquette Dodds from IEC explained to the young people that, it is a myth that if a registered voter has not voted, then their vote automatically goes to the ruling party.

Mr Vuyani Plaitjies, a resident of Louisvleweg, urged IEC to do more to get people to voting stations on election days instead of leaving the responsibility to political parties. Attendees welcomed the session saying it has given them enough information to make an informed decision about registering to vote.

The public awareness session is part of voter education campaigns by government and IEC to encourage more young people to register to vote and actively participate in the upcoming Local Government Elections set to take place between 2026 and 2027.



Ms Prins explaining the purpose of the day and the importance of Local Government Elections.



Mr Tsolo from IEC explaining how residents and organisations can reach their office for voter education programmes.



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IEC official encouraging the youth to register to vote.



Youth from Louisvaleweg requesting the IEC to do more to get more people to voting stations during elections.



Young people who attended the public awareness session.



Mr Vuyani Plaitjie:

"The session IEC had with our youth was very informative, and they learnt a lot about how IEC makes sure it reaches the outermost voters. I have only one submission for the IEC: to do more to get people to the voting stations and not make it the prerogative of political parties to do so, but for IEC to have its independent campaign so people can go and vote."

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

Eastern Cape G20 Indaba

By Lunam Mdingi, Sinobomi Mathombela and Anelisa Mlonyeni; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 20 to 21 August 2025, the Department of Basic Education, Deputy Minister Dr Reginah Mhaule, and Eastern Cape (EC) Education Member of the Executive Council (MEC) Mr Fundile Gade, led the two-day Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) G20 Indaba on early childhood development at the East London International Convention Centre.

The ECDoE in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System, dedicated the first day of the Indaba to reinforcing provincial education strategies that promote equality, elevate the quality of learning and ensure effective allocation of resources. The session brought together delegates from the academic sector, senior government officials, School Governing Bodies, teacher unions, non-governmental organisations, tertiary institutions and industry captains in the province, to share best practices of excellence in building future leaders.

Mr Fundile Gade, EC Education MEC, emphasised that the education system should not only focus on teaching children to speak English, but to also be literate and learn lifelong skills that are crucial for critical thinking in navigating everyday challenges. MEC Gade further said that, “We are in a phase of redevelopment, rediscovering and reimagining South Africa today to ensure that we have a systematic schooling system that moves from great to great in the country.”

During the Indaba, tertiary institutions shared ways to strengthen ECDoE through literacy, numeracy and life skills for lifelong success. A panel discussion on the funding landscape was also held, where business sector stakeholders including Old Mutual, FirstRand, and Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, shared information on the resources and funding opportunities available in their organisations. Each stakeholder group and partner pledged to uphold specific rules and responsibilities recommended to the Indaba.



EC Education MEC, Mr Gade delivering his speech at the Indaba.



Department of Education Head of Department Ms Maasdorp delivering her speech.



Panel discussion with stakeholders on available resources and funding opportunities.



Attendees at the G20 Indaba.

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

Gender-based violence and femicide is everyone's concern

By Joy Themba; GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 19 August 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with the departments of Correctional Services (DCS), Health (DOH), Social Development, South African Social Security Agency, Community Safety, Security and Liaison (DCSSL), the South African Police Service (SAPS), National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the City of Mbombela Local Municipality (CMLM) and Umjindi Victim Empowerment (UVE), engaged the Ekujabuleni Disability Centre members in Umjindi.

The purpose of the engagement was to empower and educate the community about gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), share information about services offered by each department, and foster collaboration between government and non-governmental organisations in a shared effort to support and protect vulnerable groups.

The community shared critical issues facing persons with disabilities that are usually reported to social workers or SAPS. The issues include the abuse of children by family members who do not use their grants effectively, but for their own needs, while others are locked inside the houses. They highlighted the need for collective action to combat these challenges.

Ms Olga Mavuso shared her experience on how the DCS awareness campaign changed her life when they conducted the same initiative at the centre. "Correctional Services encouraged persons with disabilities to apply for vacant posts when advertised by the department. I was motivated because I already matriculated and was part of the disability centre members. I learned developmental skills such

as sewing, gardening and gained my confidence by associating with other persons with disabilities. Today, I'm proud to say I was shortlisted and called for an interview. I am now employed by DCS and was also nominated as the Chairperson for Umjindi Disability Forum," explained Ms Mavuso.

Mr Thabiso Mhlongo of the City of Mbombela (Transversal Unit) said the local municipality advocates for persons with disabilities and ensures that their applications for housing, electricity, and water supply are fast-tracked for approval. He encouraged the community to support their family members living with disabilities and ensure that they visit the centre to be registered in the social development database. Mhlongo also called for the reporting of family members who take away the housing of persons with disabilities and rent it out without their consent.

Persons with disabilities experience criminal activities either happening to them or other community members, but fear reporting because they will be asked to be witnesses in court. SAPS and NPA educated, assured, and reminded attendees that they can report cases of abuse or any crime and still be protected as they can be witnesses on camera and having their voices changed while they take the stand.

The DOH also brought mobile services on-site for chronic diseases and conducted check-ups. The initiative underscores the government's ongoing commitment to promoting public access to all who live in it.



From left to right: Ms Olga Mavuso of DCS, Ms Francina Mngwenyama of DCSSL, Mr Thabiso Mhlongo of CMLM, and Ms Lindiwe Repinga of UVE sharing information on their services, GBVF, bullying and online dating affecting persons with disabilities.



Ms Joy Themba of GCIS is outlining the purpose of the awareness session.



Ms Sarah Maseko:

"I am pleased to be part of this programme today, because as members of the Ekujabuleni Disability Centre, we sometimes feel like the government is only catering for other communities because they can hold meetings knowing that we cannot be able to reach those gatherings without transport. Today we are happy and will share the information we received with others."

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

Vuk' Talks Seminar promotes vocational education in Soweto

By Moloko Segale; GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), and the South West Gauteng Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, jointly hosted the Vuk' Talks Seminar at Molapo Campus in Soweto on 27 August 2025. The Seminar showcased vocational education as an essential path for future leaders. Under the theme "TVETs Must Rise: Shaping Future Leaders Across All Fields", the Seminar spotlighted careers in engineering, utility and business.

The event aimed to address the misconception that TVET colleges are a "second-best" option for those who are academically underperforming. This misconception undermines the value of vocational education and discourages students from considering TVETs as a promising pathway.

The national seminars offer an opportunity for discussions on meaningful topics and interaction with relevant companies and to encourage students to take on various programmes offered by TVET colleges.

By promoting TVET colleges as a viable option, the seminars also aim to empower students and contribute to the country's economic development.

Representatives from organisations including the National Youth Development Agency, Gibela Rail, Zhauns Business Opportunity, Mining Qualifications Authority, and SA Youth/Harambee shared insights and opportunities in their respective fields. They provided students with information to help them make informed career decisions, fostering youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, particularly in sectors such as artisanship.

Ms Patience Makhaphela, Head of Marketing at South West Gauteng TVET College, said, "Today reminded us of the power of collaboration and shared purpose. We are grateful for the opportunity to host such a dynamic gathering."



Ms Botlhokwa Nyantumba and Ms Kamogelo Moshokwa of GCIS preparing information packs for students attending the Seminar.



From left to right: Mr Tshepo Nkosi of Vuk'uzenzele Newspaper facilitated panel discussions with Ms Mahadi Sekhosana and Ms Vuyiswa Thala from Gibela Rail, and Ms Sbonga Gumede from SA Youth.



Students from South West Gauteng TVET College attending the Seminar.



Ms Tshegofatso Kgoko:

"I am a student at George Tabor Campus currently doing a clothing production course. The question that I seek clarity on is how organisations like these meet youth in terms of their mental and emotional state because they go through a lot. How do we incorporate entrepreneurship with self-awareness? Because I believe that if you are self-aware, you have the capabilities of being in control of your mind and decisions. I am glad that being here helped me a lot because I gained so much knowledge, which I am going to run with from now on as someone who ventures into entrepreneurship."



Ms Keneilwe Moloto:

"My expectations for the G20 Summit in November are that, I want to hear various countries talking about issues related to health and climate change, as it's a huge aspect in our environment on the entire Earth and is affecting the African continent. The focus should be on the environmental issues that we face as countries and how we are going to deal with the challenges."



Mr Lerato Mathule:

"We would like to thank GCIS for coming up with this initiative and hosting this event. My request is that utility students be part of the next event."