



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

Thusong Service Centre addresses community-based challenges and provides services

By Nontuthuko Ngubane; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

From 14 to 17 September 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) participated in the Thusong Service Centre Week. The week focused on outreach and service delivery under the theme: "Milestones of Freedom". Events were held at the Port Durnford and uMfolozi Thusong Services Centres, situated in the uMhlathuze and Mfolozi Local Municipalities. During the week-long outreach initiative, the GCIS collaborated with Thusong Service Centres within the King Cetshwayo District to host celebrations at the Port Durnford Thusong Centre (Esikhaleni Reserve) on 14 September 2026, organised by the City of uMhlathuze alongside various stakeholders to also commemorate Integrated Public Service Month.

The programme aimed to provide essential government services and information to the public, ensuring that community members did not have to travel long distances to access those services. Participating organisations included the departments of Health, Agriculture, Social

Development, Employment and Labour, Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, South African Social Security Agency, Nedbank, Sanlam, Mpilonhle NPO Health Services, Eskom and the Kwazulu-Natal (KZN) Economic Regulating Authority among others. On 17 September 2026, the uMfolozi Local Municipality, along with various stakeholders, engaged the community of Embabe (Ward 8) as part of the programme. uMfolozi Mayor, Cllr Xolani Bhengu, addressed the community and encouraged them to use the information provided by stakeholders to empower themselves.

The GCIS focused on sharing information related to gender-based violence and femicide. Community members were given an opportunity to ask questions and interact with government and municipal officials. Additionally, some equipment and plants were distributed to assist community members at their homes. The various departments present there provided services and information to the community throughout the event.



The uMhlathuze community gathered at the Port Durnford Thusong Service Centre to get information on how to access government services.



A representative from the uMhlathuze Local Municipality giving a presentation during the event.



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GCIS official, Ms Nontuthuko Ngubane, providing crucial information during Thusong Service Centre Week.



Ms Ngubane, providing information material at the outreach event.



Information products ready to be distributed by GCIS KZN to the attendees.



The community of Embabe (Ward 8) under the uMfolozi Local Municipality were part of the programme.



Mayor Bhengu addressing community members, urging them to use the information provided by stakeholders to empower themselves.



Ms Ngubane, providing information at the outreach event held at uMfolozi Thusong Service Centre.

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

GCIS and SAPS empower Rosedale community on misinformation, disinformation and cybersecurity

By Lecrecia Prins and Phumla Matole; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 22 September 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) hosted a public education session on misinformation, disinformation and cybersecurity. The event took place at the Babbel Bekkies Hall in Rosedale, ZF Mgcawu District.

The GCIS's ZF Mgcawu Regional Communications Coordinator, Ms Lecrecia Prins, explained the concepts of misinformation, disinformation and malformation. She also discussed the legal implications of creating, spreading and sharing false information. Additionally, Ms Prins educated residents on how to identify fake news and manipulated videos; and to verify information and its sources. Finally she highlighted the dangers of sharing unverified content.

Sergeant (Sgt) Okgone Mabilo of the Rosedale SAPS, informed residents about cybercrime and its impact on people's lives. Sgt Mabilo explained that crimes such as human trafficking, cyberbullying and romance scams remained a major concern in communities; with criminals increasingly using computers, digital devices and the internet to target victims. He urged residents not to click on links received from unknown numbers and advised them against purchasing vehicles or property from unverified sources without first confirming their authenticity. Parents were also encouraged to monitor their children's online activities and mobile phones, as children may be vulnerable to cybercrime and online bullying.

The session was attended by Ward Committee, Community Policing Forum and Community Works Programme members.



Cllr Zaida Maasdorp opening the public education session with a prayer.



Ms Lecrecia Prins from the GCIS presenting on mis/disinformation to residents of Rosedale.



Distribution of the *Northern Cape Messenger* newsletter to residents.

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

Mafube Municipality receives maintenance fleet and equipment donation to strengthen municipal services

By Morena Motlounj; GCIS, Free State

Free State Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Human Settlements and Cooperative Governance (CoGTA), Mr Saki Mokoena donated vehicles, road maintenance machinery and other equipment to the Mafube Local Municipality on Sunday, 27 September 2026. The handover, which took place at Poelano Sports Ground in Namahadi, aimed to strengthen the municipality's capacity to provide much needed basic services to communities. The municipality was recently placed under provincial administration in terms of section 139 of the Constitution of South Africa of 1996, following challenges affecting its ability to deliver services effectively. The donated equipment is expected to support municipal operations, particularly road maintenance and the repair of potholes. The donation included a grader, water tanker, truck and various road maintenance and pothole repair equipment. The municipality's political leadership and senior management received the items.

Mafube is the latest municipality to benefit from Cogta's intervention through the provision of service delivery equipment. The Ngwathe Local Municipality, which was also recently placed under provincial administration, previously received a similar donation to strengthen its service delivery capacity. MEC Mokoena was accompanied by Ms Nomasonto Motaung. Ms Motaung is a Member of the National Assembly and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture. During his visit, the MEC also

addressed a gathering of women from various *Manyano* societies at Falesizwe Secondary School Hall. He used the engagement to reaffirm government's commitment to combating gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

The MEC encouraged women and community members to report incidents of GBVF and other crimes to the relevant authorities. He emphasised the importance of community cooperation with law enforcement agencies and government departments in ensuring the safety and security of residents. MEC Mokoena then called on the Mafube community to work with the department and municipality. He emphasised the need to ensure that the donated fleet and equipment were properly maintained and used for their intended purpose. He also challenged the incoming political leadership to demonstrate responsible leadership and ensure that municipal assets were protected and remained available to provide services to communities even after the upcoming Local Government Elections. The handover forms part of government's ongoing efforts to strengthen municipal capacity and improve the delivery of basic services to communities. This is particularly important in municipalities facing significant operational and service delivery challenges.



Road maintenance equipment donated by MEC Mokoena.



A water tanker was among the fleet donated to Mafube Local Municipality.



MEC Mokoena and the Mayor of Mafube Local Municipality, Cllr Phaladi Matsole, at the official handover.



A gathering of women's societies was addressed by the MEC on government's commitment to the fight against GBVF.



The women listened as the MEC addressed them at Falesizwe Secondary School Hall.



MEC Mokoena addressed the gathering at the official handover of service delivery fleet to the Mafube Local Municipality.

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

GCIS hosts Misinformation and Disinformation Public Education Workshop

By Naledi Motanyane; GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) held a successful Misinformation and Disinformation Public Education Workshop at Macacuma Community Hall on 22 September 2026. The programme was chaired by Cllr Zandisile Mangciphu and the local traditional leader, Mr Mguye, did the opening and welcome. Additionally, Ms Tlotlisang Koena from the GCIS outlined the purpose of the meeting, explaining the difference between misinformation, disinformation and malformation; and why communities needed to verify information before sharing it. She cautioned that the community should keep their identity documents (IDs) safe, as ID fraud was on the rise and in some cases, people found themselves fraudulently married to strangers after sharing their ID copies carelessly.

Stakeholders present included the Joe Gqabi Disaster Management unit, Joe Gqabi Municipal Health Services, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Department of Agriculture (DoA) and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

Mr Lazola Bhukula from Environmental Health, spoke on climate change and global warming. He encouraged communities to avoid illegal dumping, recycle used containers and re-use containers to plant vegetables. He advised that burning waste should be done safely and not inside homes. Ms Ntombexolo Jonasi from SASSA, educated the community on social grants. She encouraged parents to immediately register for a Child Support Grant as soon as their babies are born. She also warned that the elderly were being manipulated and scammed after sharing their SASSA details with strangers. She advised that beneficiaries should always tell anyone asking for their details to go and verify the person's identity at their offices first.

Mr Xolisa Hoho from the Joe Gqabi Disaster Management unit, addressed misinformation about El Nino, explaining that it was not new and had occurred in previous years. Predictions show that El Nino has begun and that its intensity would be felt from October to February. He advised communities to use water wisely, report any water leakages in their communities, use sunscreen, umbrellas and stay hydrated during the heat waves.

Mr Mzimhle Socikwa from the DoA noted that the youth were often at the forefront of spreading disinformation because of content creation. He emphasised that spreading false information was wrong, as it left people with incorrect information. He spoke about government programmes such as backyard gardens, which require application and warned against using fake IDs to access services. He also advised farmers to monitor their livestock and take old animals to the market. Ms Yamkela Shabalala from the IEC spoke about decreasing voter turnout. She explained that not voting had an impact on service delivery and outlined the process of applying for a special vote and how people could verify their registration status. She urged the community to go out and vote in high numbers. The workshop concluded with a question and discussion session, a way forward by the Chairperson and a vote of thanks by a community development worker. For more on elections, whatsapp IEC on 060 088 8000.



Mr Bhukula from Environmental Health during the information sharing session.



The community of Macacuma village came out in numbers to attend the workshop.



Ms Asisipho Bhukula presented on behalf of Environmental Health.



Ms Koena was presenting on behalf of the GCIS during the public education workshop.



Community members fully participated and engaged in deliberations during the workshop.