MYDISTRICTTODAY

A NATION THAT WORKS FOR ALL

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

Thusong Service Centre programme brings government services closer to communities

By Khanyiso Seyisi; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

A double-header service-delivery programme was held at the Oshabeni and KwaXolo Thusong Service Centres on 18 September 2026 as part of the annual Thusong Service Centre Week and the newly launched Milestones of Freedom campaign.

The initiative brought government services closer to the Oshabeni and KwaXolo communities, giving residents an opportunity to access essential services, receive information and learn more about available government programmes and opportunities.

The programme was coordinated by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality. Other participating stakeholders included the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA), the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, the Electoral Commission of South Africa and Community Development Workers from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

The day's activities demonstrated the importance of partnerships in bringing government services and information closer to communities, particularly in areas where access to services may be difficult.

Stakeholders engaged with community members, ranging from school learners to pensioners, through talks and information sessions. These engagements provided residents with useful advice and assistance in accessing relevant government services and opportunities.

Ms Nelisiwe Xolo from Gcilima, under the KwaXolo Traditional Area, attends an event held as part of the annual Thusong Service Centre Week and the Milestones of Freedom campaign.

SEDFA business advisor Ms Sinelisiwe Mbhele addresses community members during the event.

Tholimfundo School learners attend an information session during the event.

GCIS Regional Communication Coordinator Mr Khanyiso Seyisi presents information packs to community members during the event.

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2030 NDP

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

Outgoing Overstrand Mayor reflects on his mayoral term

By Jason Lloyd; GCIS, Western Cape

As the Overstrand Executive Mayor Cllr Archie Klaas prepares to leave office following the local government elections on 4 November 2026, he has reflected on the progress made during his tenure. He also highlighted the challenges requiring continued attention to advance inclusive and sustainable development across the municipality.

Overstrand Local Municipality, situated in the Overberg District of the Western Cape, includes the towns of Hermanus, Kleinmond, Stanford and Gansbaai. These communities have diverse socioeconomic needs, with housing delivery, service provision and responsible governance among the municipality's key priorities.

Reflecting on the municipality's work in recent years, Cllr Klaas said housing delivery has been an important part of its development efforts, particularly in addressing residents' need for secure housing opportunities. He recalled that during his tenure, housing initiatives in the town of Hermanus included the handover of 72 title deeds for serviced sites in Mount Pleasant in August 2025 and the allocation of serviced plots to 83 beneficiaries in Zwelihle in April 2026.

The municipality also received its 13th consecutive clean audit for the 2024/25 financial year.

Maintaining public spaces and protecting municipal infrastructure have also featured prominently in the municipality's community engagement initiatives. During clean-up operations in Mount Pleasant and Zwelihle in April 2026, Cllr Klaas called on residents, businesses and visitors to help combat illegal dumping and keep their neighbourhoods clean.

According to Cllr Klaas, the municipality continues to face demands for housing, infrastructure investment and reliable services across its towns and communities. Addressing these needs requires effective planning, responsible financial management and cooperation between government and residents.

"As the next municipal leadership prepares to take office, sustaining housing programmes, improving infrastructure, supporting vulnerable households and promoting local economic development will remain important considerations," he said.

The outgoing Overstrand Executive Mayor Alderman Archie Klaas in his office in Hermanus.

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

National Recreation Day promotes solidarity against GBVF

By Morena Motloung; GCIS, Free State

On 9 October 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, the South African Police Service (SAPS), other government departments and civil society gathered in Heilbron to observe National Recreation Day (NRD).

The event used sport and recreation to demonstrate solidarity in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

Government continues to combat GBVF through various initiatives across the country. Phiritona and other townships in the district face several social challenges, including domestic violence. In response, the NRD initiative brought together government departments, civil society forums, non-governmental organisations and non-profit organisations.

The programme enabled community members to participate in sporting activities while learning about the importance of protecting women and children.

The day began with a 5 km peaceful march against GBVF, led by the SAPS, as a member of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster, together with the Community Policing Forum. After the march, community members participated in aerobics and other sporting activities at the Phiritona Sports Complex.

NRD stakeholders also used the event to mark Social Development Month observed annually in October. The initiative demonstrated support for survivors of GBVF and sent a strong message that violence against women and children has no place in society.

Community stakeholders and government officials at the start of the 5 km peaceful street march against GBVF in Phiritona.

SAPS members lead the street march against GBVF in Phiritona.

The GCIS information and exhibition stall supports the sporting activities in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Aerobics activities at the Phiritona Sports Complex.

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

Love Your Street activation raises awareness about GBVF

By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

This month, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with Merafong Community Development Workers (CDWs), A Re Ageng Social Services, based at the Khutsong Police Station, and members of the Carletonville Community Work Programme (CWP), conducted a Love Your Street activation at Madala Site Informal Settlement in Carletonville.

The activation, which took place on 13 October 2026, was held in response to the alarming rise in the number of women being killed in Gauteng. It included a gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) awareness programme.

The Love Your Street programme combined service delivery with community education. The activation team cut overgrown grass and cleared open spaces that posed a safety risk to women and children. The team also conducted awareness sessions on GBVF and the support services available for victims and their families.

Merafong CWP Coordinator Mr William Maile commended the initiative. "The Love Your Street programme is a good initiative, and we, as the CWP, will ensure that other areas are identified and that similar activities are conducted," he said.

To strengthen community safety, residents were encouraged to download the panic-button application, which alerts local security structures, including the police, when a crime is happening. Whistles were also distributed to enable residents to alert one another during crimes and disasters such as shack fires.

The Merafong City Local Municipality's Parks Department planted trees along the sides of the streets to promote a clean and sustainable environment. The activation highlighted the importance of partnerships between government, civil society and community structures in the fight against GBVF.

Officials from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs' CWP, CDWs and the West Rand District Municipality clean the area (left) and plant fruit trees around Madala Site (right).

Ms Tiisetso Mphahlele from A Re Ageng Social Services shares information about the services the organisation provides to GBVF victims and their families.

Ms Nyameka Bosekwa:
"We have learnt more about GBVF in our area. Although we understand what it is, we were encouraged today to report incidents. Stakeholders also emphasised the importance of keeping our area safe by cleaning it and requesting assistance from the municipality with grass cutting."

Mr Itumeleng Modisane:
"As members of the CWP in Madala Site, we are here to clean and ensure that the area is kept clean. We will continue to work with relevant structures to ensure that grass is cut to improve visibility and safety for people walking around."