



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Government and the faith-based sector collaborate to tackle GBVF

By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Mmapaseka Steve Letsike, together with the Faith Action Collective to End GBV and We Will Speak Out South Africa (WWSOSA), launched the Interfaith Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Prevention and Mitigation Strategy on 3 October 2024, at the Baha'i National Centre in North Riding, Johannesburg.

The two faith sector formations were established in 2013 and 2020 respectively, to unite the faith-based sector in South Africa in addressing GBVF effectively. According to reports and findings by the faith sector, GBVF survivors stated that they felt let down by their religious leaders and many were hesitant to continue being active members in their religious denominations. It is on this basis that various religious and traditional

denominations such as Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Hare Krishna, traditional healers and many others, attended the launch to make inputs in the strategy, and engage on how to fight and eradicate GBVF and support survivors. Ms Daniela Gennrich, a coordinator from WWSOSA, said that the strategy was not intended only for partners in the Faith Action Collective but for everyone from any faith-based organisations or religions.

Panel discussions were held with experts about GBVF to educate and discuss solutions to address the scourge. During her keynote address, Deputy Minister Letsike lamented that GBVF continued to harm society. Some of the panellists included Bishop Nathi Zondo, Chairperson of the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council and Ms Fasiha Hassan, a Member of Parliament.



Ms Anisa Moosa from the National Shelter Movement, Bishop Zondo, Ms Hassan and Deputy Minister Letsike making inputs at the launch.



Ms Gennrich addressing attendees at the launch.



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**Ms Norma Uhuru Mbele said:**  
“As a GBVF activist, I have made it my mission to fight for justice for victims of GBVF. It is sad when families are left feeling rejected and not enough is being done for their loved ones, so we ensure as the Tosunga Banninga (non-governmental organisation) that we provide support.”



**Ms Pontsho Segwai said:**  
“I am happy to see so many people from the faith sector coming out to engage on this strategy and provide their inputs on the best ways to address GBVF. With the interfaith pledge that we will be taking as a collective, it shows that we commit ourselves to speaking out against GBVF.”

## PRIORITY I: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

### Central Karoo District Municipality focuses on tackling corruption during Public Service Month

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

From 11 to 12 September 2024, the Government Communication and Information System, in partnership with local municipalities in the Central Karoo District, kicked off Public Service Month with workshops focusing on corruption in the Beaufort West, Prince Albert and Laingsburg local municipalities. The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) facilitated the workshops, and placed specific focus on corruption by municipal officials, law-enforcement agencies, government departments and state-owned entities.

Widespread corruption in South Africa deters investment, weakens economic growth and undermines the rule of law. It threatens sustainable economic development, ethical values and justice, which in turn destabilise society and undermine democratic institutions and values.

According to the Western Cape Provincial Head of the SIU, Mr Michael Leaser, their mandate is to investigate serious malpractice or maladministration relating to state institutions, state assets and public money. They investigate any conduct that may seriously harm the interests of the public and also establish a special tribunal to hear civil matters. The services of the SIU range from group forensics,

forensic investigations, accounting, data analytics, cyber forensics, civic litigation and legal matters. The SIU is only empowered to investigate matters which the President of the Republic of South Africa has, by proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, refers to it or if the President establishes a special unit to investigate a particular matter.

The government officials were told what corruption entailed, focussing on tender fraud, municipal malpractice of funds and how corruption is investigated and prosecuted in South Africa.

“There are many ways to report corruption, and you do not have to give your name when reporting. One of the ways to report any form of fraud and corruption is through the National Anti-Corruption Hotline number: 0800 701 701 or the SIU Hotline: 0800 037 774,” concluded Mr Leaser.



Mr Leaser during his presentation at the Beaufort West Municipality Anti-Corruption Workshop.



Mr Leaser responding to questions from officials on SIU reporting processes.

## PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### The Free State hosts successful edition of the National Road Safety Debates Competition

By Gomolemo Meje; GCIS, Free State

The Department of Basic Education and the Free State Department of Roads and Transport hosted the National Road Safety Debate Competition at the Free State Legislature in Bloemfontein on 26 September 2024. The Participatory Education Techniques and Debates Competition is hosted annually for learners across provinces to showcase their debating skills and advocate for road safety.

The national programme is an initiative coordinated by the Road Traffic Management Corporation and has been implemented in all nine provinces with great success since 2007. The competition is directed at high school learners in grades 10 and 11, and is conducted in line with the World Schools and United Nations' style of debating adapted for purposes of imparting road safety knowledge among peers.

The competition brought learners from various provinces together to debate on road safety issues in South Africa under the theme: "We aim to empower the youth to actively contribute to road safety awareness and policy through dynamic debate competitions and interactive educational sessions".

The programme did not only empower learners to find sustainable solutions to road safety problems, but to also develop their presentation and leadership skills. In addition, the Democracy Bus coordinated by the Government Communication and Information System, was in the Free State to symbolise South Africa's 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy.



Grade 10 and 11 learners from various provinces attending the Roads and Transport Safety Debate at the Free State Legislature in Bloemfontein.



**Mr Mpho Loate said:**

“The community media workshop was informative as it assisted the to meet with its stakeholders and iron out all the important issues.”



**Mr Moraka Monyeki from Kgatleng FM said:**

“I am thrilled to have attended the workshop, as I have gained so much knowledge and understanding about the sector.”

## PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

### GCIS celebrates 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy with community media outlets

*By Lilly Mohlosana; GCIS, North West*

On 19 September 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with Sentech, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), South African Revenue Service (SARS), the National Association of Broadcasters (NABSA) and the Rustenburg Local Municipality to convene a community media workshop for the print and radio community media.

The workshop was held in North West to celebrate 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy. The NABSA presented its achievements over the past 30 years. Ms Juila Sham-Guild highlighted that one of the first radio stations to go on air, Radio Freedom, which was Africa’s oldest radio station operated by the African National Congress from Zambia, aired its first formal broadcast in 1963. Radio Freedom played a crucial role in informing and inspiring South Africans during the apartheid era and contributed to the success of the anti-apartheid movement.

Ms Busi Mashigo from ICASA encouraged the community radio station managers to apply for licensing as soon as applications opened, as delays in applying would lead to the stations being unable to broadcast. Mr Moses Hlongoane from SARS, explained in depth about the regulations that community radio stations were expected to follow, such as being tax compliant and registering employees with SARS to avoid penalties.

“The MDDA is ready to work with community media. The funding dates are set to change from the next financial year, as per National Treasury recommendations,” said Ms Siphokazi Mgudlwa, Programme Manager: Broadcast Projects. She encouraged the community radio stations to apply when applications opened for the next round of funding. Ms Lilly Mohlosana from the GCIS thanked everyone for attending the workshop and reiterated that community media was crucial in keeping communities informed.



Ms Nonhlanhla Ndawonde from the GCIS Radio unit presenting during the workshop.



Ms Busi Mashigo from ICASA outlining their role in broadcasting.



Mr Ndlomo Mbonelwa from Sentech explaining to their sector about regulations.