



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

Pre-SoNA road intersection activation

By Thenjiwe Konono; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 9 February 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Department of Transport (DoT), held a pre-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) road intersection activation along the N1 Johannesburg to Cape Town route in Umsobomvu, Colesberg and Pixley-ka-Seme District to raise awareness of the SoNA.

Information leaflets were distributed to motorists and passengers, explaining SoNA's purpose and its role in national development. A total of 50 vehicles were engaged, with most people expressing interest and optimism that

government commitments would be implemented and monitored. Few people viewed SoNA as just a talkshow, citing concerns over lack of implementation on government promises.

GCIS also visited the local taxi rank to hear from drivers. They noted that opportunities were sometimes given based on political affiliation and that community projects were poorly implemented or phased out. Drivers called for consistent monitoring and evaluation to ensure government initiatives benefit communities.



SAPS, DoT and GCIS during the pre-SoNA activation.



GCIS and the DoT issuing information products about the SoNA.



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SAPS and Gcis also distributing leaflets and sharing information on the SoNA.



Gcis providing information and distributing leaflets to petrol attendants.



Mr Zolile Martiens:
"I feel SoNA opportunities often favour those linked to the ruling party locally. My taxis were removed from operating at the wind farm due to my political affiliation, leading to repossession. Opportunities should be fair for all and the national government must monitor local government to ensure promises are delivered."



Mr Thethani Katise:
"I believe government projects lack transparency. Jobs are given unfairly, with the same people moving between projects while others remain unemployed, due to favouritism and corruption in local government. We need to elect the right leaders in the upcoming elections."



Mr Mzingaye Madikane:
"I have been in the taxi industry since 2018 and have never received government support, while other businesses do. We owe the municipality R32 000 for electricity and waste and the taxi rank's rent is too high for a small town like Colesberg. Rent should be adjusted to local conditions; and we need government funding support."

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

Mayor Abrahams engages Witzenberg community on SoNA 2026

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

Residents of the Witzenberg municipal area were provided an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SoNA) during a special Mayoral Thursday radio engagement held on 19 February 2026.

The interview, organised by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), formed part of ongoing efforts to ensure that communities are informed, empowered and able to participate in national and local governance discussions.

During the engagement, Executive Mayor, Cllr Trevor Abrahams of the Witzenberg Local Municipality, unpacked key messages delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa in the 2026 SoNA. The Mayor provided a localised analysis of government's priorities, highlighting their implications for residents of Witzenberg and the broader Cape Winelands District.

Mayor Abrahams further underscored the important link between the SoNA, the State of the Province Address (SoPA) and the State of the Municipal Address (SoMA). He emphasised that these platforms were interconnected planning and accountability mechanisms that ensured alignment between national, provincial and local government priorities.

"The SoNA sets the national vision and priorities and the SoPA translates these priorities at the provincial level. At the municipal level, we respond through our SoMA, ensuring that our Integrated Development Plan speaks directly to these commitments," he explained.

Community members were invited to engage directly with the Mayor, ask questions and share their views on issues raised in the SoNA. The interactive format strengthened participatory democracy by ensuring that residents were not only informed but are also active contributors in governance conversations.

The Mayoral Thursday platform continues to serve as an important communication channel between the municipality and its residents; reinforcing transparency, accountability and public participation.

The GCIS remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote access to information and foster an informed citizenry that actively participates in democratic processes.



Mayor Abrahams at WRFM, being interviewed on the SoNA commitments made by President Cyril Ramaphosa.



Mayor Abrahams preparing for the radio interview to ensure that communities are informed about his analysis of the SoNA.

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

Stakeholders addressing safety and GBVF in schools

By Maria Ramoshaba; GCIS, Limpopo

On 29 January 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the Thuthuzela Care Centre, Film and Publication Board (FPB), South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Health (Ga Pila Clinic) and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), embarked on a gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) campaign at Matanta Secondary School.

The purpose of the event was to address among others, unruly behaviour, possession of harmful substances and other substances by learners. Learners were also cautioned against bringing dangerous objects to school, as they are strictly prohibited and pose a threat to everyone's safety. The safety of learners and educators in schools is a matter of concern.

The Principal of the school, Ms Molatelo Mashita, appreciated the visit to the school and the good work done by the GCIS did in coordinating stakeholders. The school had a 58% pass rate in 2024 and attained 98% in 2025. She believed that the learners would, from now on, listen attentively and improve their behaviour.

Sergeant Mabitsela from the Tynmine SAPS, emphasised that learners should not bully each other or bring dangerous weapons to school, as they could be arrested and charged, resulting in a criminal record that will affect their future negatively. Bullying can contribute to suicide and early school dropouts. SAPS provided learners with a cellphone number to report bullying.

Ms Idah Maloka from FPB, emphasised that children should refrain from watching movies or films with age restrictions, as most end up imitating the actions they see, forgetting that it is not real life. They were urged to note the restriction codes such as L (language), S (sex), H (horror), and D (drugs) in movies. They were also encouraged to use their smartphones wisely to search for schoolwork, bursaries and to apply for free online courses offered by Nemisa and other institutions.

The highlight of the event was when Ivanplaats Mine in Mokopane donated sanitary towels to 77 girls from grades 8 to 12.



Ms Mashita, Principal of Matanta Secondary School, welcomes stakeholders to the school.



Mr Lesetja Teffo from the DCS encouraging learners to stay out of trouble, as prison life is not good.



Learners listened attentively to the presenters.



Girls showing the sanitary towels donated to them.

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

Post-SoNA public education on government successes

By Sandiswa Mdingi and Aphelele Zote; GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System collaborated with the Chris Hani District and Dr AB Xuma Local Municipalities to conduct a post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) Mayoral Service Delivery talk show hosted at Engcobo FM.

The engagement formed part of the government's ongoing efforts to communicate key priorities outlined during the SoNA and to ensure that communities were informed about service delivery progress and future development plans. The platform provided residents with the opportunity to receive firsthand updates and to understand better how national priorities are being translated into local action.

Representing the Executive Mayor of Dr AB Xuma Local Municipality, Cllr Siyabulela Zangqa, delivered a comprehensive report on service delivery achievements for the 2025/26 financial year, while also outlining planned interventions and strategic priorities for the 2026/27 financial year. Mayor Zangqa

highlighted progress in critical areas including infrastructure development, water and sanitation services, road maintenance and community development programmes to improve residents' quality of life.

The talk show is part of the ongoing Local Government Thursday programme, which focuses specifically on service delivery matters and strengthening accountability between municipalities and communities. Through this initiative, the government continues to promote transparency, responsiveness and active citizen participation in local governance.

In his concluding remarks, Mayor Zangqa emphasised the importance of aligning provincial priorities with municipal plans to accelerate development across the district. The mayor further highlighted key municipal service delivery projects that are set to drive economic growth, enhance infrastructure and improve access to basic services.



Mayor Zangqa during the post-SoNA Service Delivery talk show.