



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

SEDFA training on business funding applications

By Thenjiwe Konono and Kgomotso Sentso; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 25 September 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA) and the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), hosted a training session on business funding applications at the Lowryville Hall in Colesberg, Pixley ka Seme District.

The purpose of the programme was to assist Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with funding for business activities such as acquiring equipment, raw materials and other essential assets. Ms Mosele Mampum from DSBD, gave attendees a comprehensive description of available funding

and outlined the requirements that applicants had to meet in order to ensure a successful outcome. She said, "This funding initiative is created to support the informal and formal businesses that are operating and that have not benefitted from any other funding from government, agencies and entities." Ms Yolanda Pikelela from SEDFA, further explained the importance of correctly filling in application forms and ensuring that all relevant documents accompanied the form.

SEDFA assisted business owners in attendance to register and capture their details on their database.



Ms Mampum from DSBD sharing information with attendees.



Ms Pikelela from SEDFA sharing information with attendees.



government
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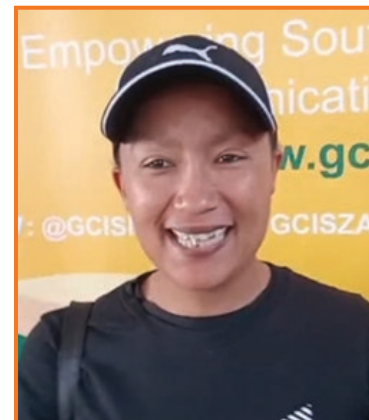


Attendees being assisted by SEDFA to capture their details on the database.



Mr Mcedisi Mkhenku – Business owner:

"I am currently operating in different business industries such as material deliveries, wood cutting, livestock and vegetable agriculture. All my sectors are informal. I will appreciate the government's support or assistance in developing me and the business in whatever way they can."



Ms Elvena – Business owner:

"I learnt a lot because I was not sure about the informal and formal business. I managed to gain the relevant knowledge with regard to the business industry I am in."



Ms Orvaya Swartbooi:

"I am truly grateful to have been part of today's session. I am a registered voter who has not yet voted before, but I am looking forward to casting my vote in the upcoming elections."

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

Public participation on e-Voting Policy

By Esmarelda Mckay; GCIS, Western Cape

On 16 September 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) during their first official public participation session on the e-Voting Policy. The event took place in Malmesbury and was well attended by youth, local political parties and community workers. Attendees were highly vocal, providing valuable inputs and raising questions that reflected their interest in the future of voting in South Africa.

To ensure broad access, GCIS collaborated with Radio 7441, which conducted live interviews and provided real-time coverage of the discussion. A South African Sign Language interpreter was also present, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all participants.

Western Cape Provincial IEC representative, Mr Michael Hendricks, delivered a detailed presentation outlining the different types of e-voting systems, highlighting both their advantages and challenges. This helped attendees better understand the potential impact of adopting such systems in the South African context.

Overall, the session was a success, demonstrating strong community engagement and meaningful dialogue around democratic processes. GCIS looks forward to supporting future public participation sessions, where more South Africans will have the opportunity to share their views on e-voting.



Mr Hendricks from the WC IEC, gave a brief introduction on the purpose and progress of the public participation session.



Mr Luke interviewing Ms Chantel Teja, who shared her inputs.

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

Matlosana community receives awareness on GBVF

By Rapelang Motlagomang; GCIS, North-West

On 26 September 2025, the Government Communication and Information System together with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), delivered a public awareness session on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). The much-needed session took place on community radio station, Star FM, with representatives from the Klerksdorp Thuthuzela Care Centre and the Sexual Offences, and Community Affairs unit and the KOSH Crisis Centre.

Ms Palesa Mpatane from Klerksdorp Thuthuzela Care Centre, explained what GBVF was and its various forms. She further outlined the services rendered by the centre to the victims of GBVF. "Klerksdorp Thuthuzela Care Centre offers support to survivors of GBVF and ensures that all the relevant legal processes are met, to ensure that the case is well managed through a court of law," said Mpatane.

The KOSH Crisis Centre primarily deals with the counselling support of survivors and immediate family members. "We receive the victim and ensure that their journey to recovery is smooth; we ensure that

we psychologically prepare them to deal with life after experiencing crime or abuse," said KOSH's Ms Stokie Bloem.

Advocate Vuyani Witbooi from the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs unit detailed the court processes for both the victim and perpetrator. "The community often accuses the court of giving bail to perpetrators, but there are various factors that determine whether the accused receives bail or not. There is law in South Africa, and the court does not simply grant or deny bail; all the factors of the case are weighed in against the law of the country, and a decision to grant bail is thoroughly scrutinised before it is finalised," he said.

GBVF continues to wreak havoc throughout communities in the country. Communities are encouraged to report GBVF incidents, and not to drop charges against the perpetrators once a case is opened. The victims are encouraged to allow court processes to take effect.



Ms Bloem and Ms Mpatane speaking about GBVF on Star FM.



Colleagues from the NPA and KOSH Crisis Centre engaging with the interviewer during the Public Education Programme.

PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Transnet contributes to economic growth in the EC

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa; GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and Transnet Port Terminals Eastern Cape (EC) held a G20 Roundtable Discussion and Media Tour on 19 September 2025. The roundtable and the tour were aimed at providing an opportunity for the media to learn and understand how Transnet port terminals operated.

Transnet Port Terminals EC Managing Executive, Ms Wandisa Vazi said, "Transnet Port Terminals play a vital role in growing the economy of the province; talking to the journalists highlighted the importance of manganese, which is exported through the port in Gqeberha."

She also added that manganese had become a critical commodity in the EC, and that it was not just the auto industry that was collaborating with government to ensure economic growth in the region. "Once you have an efficient terminal, it is easy to grow and attract other businesses to come to the EC, and that is what we have been experiencing, hence the exponential growth that we see even in our financials. Having grown our revenue by 14%, which was sitting at R2.1 billion, we are now sitting at R3.6 billion," Ms Vazi concluded.

The Transnet Port Terminal is deliberate in making sure they create jobs, as the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Municipality is facing huge job losses. Transnet created 700 jobs within the last year, and will continue to create more jobs as they move from a two-shift to a three-shift system.



GCIS and Transnet Port Terminals EC G20 Roundtable in pictures.