



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

### Human Rights Month engagement empowers students

By Tshepo Morwe and Mpho More; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 20 March 2026, the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Andries Nel, participated in an engagement session with students at the Northern Cape Urban Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, Moremogolo Campus in Galeshewe. The engagement formed part of the Human Rights Month programme commemorating 30 years since the adoption of the Constitution under the theme “30 Years of Constitutional Democracy: Reflect, Renew, Recommit”.

The session focused on the significance of the Constitution, its role in advancing democracy and the responsibility of young people to uphold and protect constitutional values. Addressing the students, Deputy Minister Nel emphasised the importance of understanding the country’s democratic foundations, highlighting that, “the Preamble of the South African

Constitution tells us who we are, where we come from and where we are going as a nation.”

He also reflected on the Sharpeville Massacre of 21 March 1960, when police opened fire on peaceful protesters opposing pass laws. This historical reflection underscored the importance of Human Rights Day and honoured the sacrifices made in the struggle for freedom, dignity and equality.

The engagement served as an important platform to educate and empower students, encouraging them to play an active role in safeguarding democratic principles and contributing to building a just and inclusive society. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) also used the opportunity to encourage students to register to vote ahead of the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections.



Mr Elkin Topkin of the IEC encouraging the students to register to vote.



Deputy Minister Nel addressing the students.



Students in attendance at the engagement session.



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**Ms Vensi Mocwaedi:**  
“The Deputy Minister capacitated us with more knowledge about our Constitution and I really enjoyed the session. We are now more knowledgeable about our Constitution.”



**Mr Vuyo Nyembezi:**  
“It was an educational engagement with the Deputy Minister. As a student studying about safety in society, we are so privileged because what was presented to us forms part of our curriculum.”



**Ms Resego Moepang:**  
“I would like to thank all the departments that came to empower us with information, especially with regards to our Constitution. I would like to further my career as an interpreter, and I hope that one day I will serve in one of South Africa’s courts.”

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

### **Deputy Minister in The Presidency hands over mobile digital library in Vredenburg**

*By Esmarelda Mckay; GCIS, Western Cape*

On 24 March 2026, Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Ms Nonceba Mhlauli, officially handed over a mobile digital library to learners at Louwville High School, in Vredenburg.

The handover took place during Human Rights Month and formed part of the year-long commemoration marking 30 years since the adoption of South Africa's Constitution. The occasion underscored government's commitment to advancing the right to education, promoting access to information and upholding human dignity.

The library provides learners with access to curriculum-aligned educational content through offline digital platforms, ensuring continuity of learning in areas with limited or no internet connectivity. The initiative plays a critical role in addressing inequality within the education system and contributes significantly to bridging the digital divide in underserved communities.

The project is the result of partnership between government and key stakeholders, including Kumba Iron Ore, Transnet and RuraTech. It reflects a shared commitment to empowering learners and building an inclusive, digitally enabling future for all.



Deputy Minister Mhlauli officially hands over a mobile digital library to learners at Louwville High School in Vredenburg, advancing access to education and helping to bridge the digital divide.



The Speaker of Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, Cllr Olwen Daniels, addresses attendees on the importance of partnerships in driving sustainable development in schools and the broader municipal community.



The Louwville High School Choir delivers an outstanding performance during the handover ceremony.

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

### Limpopo Premier leads sod-turning ceremony for Sithole twins' new family home

By Eunice Nkuna; GCIS, Limpopo

The Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, officially led a sod-turning ceremony for the construction of a new home for the mother of the Sithole twins in Lulekani on 23 March 2026. The ceremony marked an important milestone in ongoing support for the family following the twins' extraordinary medical journey.

The ceremony was attended by a number of dignitaries, including the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr Pule Shayi; the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa, Cllr Merriam Malatji; Hosi Mlungisi Majeje of the Majeje Traditional Council; as well as other local leaders.

Earlier this year, the twins' story drew national attention when their 29-year-old mother was first admitted at the Maputha L. Malatjie Hospital and later referred to Mankweng Tertiary Hospital. She gave birth to conjoined twins on 29 January 2026. In a highly complex and meticulously coordinated medical intervention, a multidisciplinary team of specialists successfully separated the twins during an intensive eight-hour surgical operation.

Addressing attendees at the ceremony, Premier Ramathuba expressed her appreciation to RISIMA for undertaking to build the family's new home, which is expected to be completed within two months.

She noted that the house would provide the family with a safe, stable and dignified living environment. The Premier further used the occasion to reaffirm her commitment to strengthening healthcare in rural communities, highlighting that Limpopo's hospitals and clinics are capable of delivering world-class medical care when adequately resourced and supported.

The successful separation of the twins has positioned Limpopo as a province with the capacity to deliver high-quality specialised healthcare, demonstrating the expertise, dedication and professionalism of its medical staff.

Lead Paediatric Specialist, Prof Nyaweleni Tshifularo, who played a key role in the surgery, commended the collective effort behind the operation. He acknowledged the valuable contributions of the Limpopo Provincial Government, anaesthetists, nurses, psychologists, dietitians, the University of Limpopo and other key stakeholders.

The sod-turning ceremony not only symbolised the beginning of a new chapter for the Sithole family, but also celebrated a broader achievement in healthcare excellence within the province.



Premier Ramathuba, (in orange), flanked by Member of the Executive Council for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr Tshitereke Matibe; the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Cllr Shayi, and the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Cllr Merriam Malatji, during the sod-turning ceremony.



Premier Ramathuba delivering the keynote address and expressing appreciation to the Risima Group for its commitment to building a home for the Sithole family.



Cllr Malatji, Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality.



Lead Paediatric Specialist, Prof Nyaweleni Tshifularo, who played a key role in the surgical separation of the twins.



**Ms Mokgadi Sathekge, UFS Qwaqwa Campus:**  
 “Human Rights Day is something that needs to be continually deliberated on, particularly when revisiting existing policies and rights. Today’s dialogue was deeply engaging and productive. The ideas shared and solutions proposed by the panellists demonstrate that we have a generation of youth committed to transforming governance and how the country is run.”



**Ms Gladness Mokhethi, Youth@SAIIA:**  
 “What I appreciated most about today’s dialogue is that it brought young people from different institutions together in one space to share their views on human rights and personal experiences. These conversations are extremely important, especially at grassroots level.”

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

**Empowering the youth to champion Human Rights**

*By Mmapeneng Lekitlane; GCIS, Free State*

On 20 March 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), hosted a vibrant and impactful Human Rights Dialogue at Maluti Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, Kwetlisong Campus. The dialogue brought together students from the University of the Free State (UFS) Qwa-qwa Campus and Maluti TVET College, creating a dynamic platform for meaningful youth engagement and exchange.

Held under the theme “Your Vote is Your Human Right”, the dialogue placed young people at the centre of critical discussions on democracy, civic participation and social justice. Emphasis was placed on the importance of voting not only as a constitutional right, but also as a powerful tool that empowered citizens to shape the future of the country.

The engagement was further enriched by the participation of key stakeholders, including the Agape Foundation for Community Development, Re Ya Kgathalla Educational Youth Project and Youth@SAIIA. Their contributions deepened the dialogue and encouraged students to critically reflect on their roles in addressing societal challenges and strengthening democracy.

Key issues explored during the session included access to education, gender equality and youth unemployment, as well as crime and bullying within communities. Students actively shared their perspectives and lived experiences, demonstrating a strong commitment to building a safer and more inclusive and just environment.

The dialogue underscored the importance of active citizenship and empowered young people to become informed, responsible and engaged participants in South Africa’s democracy. It also served as a reminder that the protection and promotion of human rights began with individual action.

Through this initiative, the GCIS reaffirmed its commitment to creating platforms that amplified youth voices and promoting a culture of human rights, accountability and active participation.



Panel members from Maluti TVET College and UFS in attendance at the dialogue.



Students attending the Human Rights Dialogue at Kwetlisong Campus.



Students actively engaging on various topics during the Human Rights Dialogue at Kwetlisong Campus.