



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 12: April 2025

## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

### EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana  
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
[ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom  
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893  
[yolisa@gcis.gov.za](mailto:yolisa@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

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

### Tshwane schools come out in numbers for 30 Years of Democracy celebration

By Robbie Senoelo; GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System, in partnership with the Kool 2B South African Foundation, hosted activities to celebrate South Africa's 30 Years of Democracy and Human Rights at the Ditsong Cultural Museum in Pretoria on 25 March 2025.

The activities kicked off with a Human Rights Day march from Burgers Park to the museum, led by drum majorettes and consisting of learners from various schools around Tshwane including Nellmapius Primary School, Soshanguve High, Rantailane Secondary and Clapham High schools. A Human Rights celebration lecture and debate also took place under the theme: "Deepening a culture of social justice and human rights". Learners displayed South African national flags inside and outside the auditorium.

Addressing the participants, Mr Khaya Seoketsa, president of the Kool 2B South African Foundation, educated participants about South Africa's freedom and democracy journey, and the historic background of the national flag. He said, "We should live in accordance with human rights and the constitutional values of humanity, equality and justice for all, thereby promoting social cohesion and nation-building.

"As for the national flag, I wish that it could be displayed in our houses, places of employment and worship, at sports and cultural gatherings, everywhere. Let us show that we are proudly South African," concluded Mr Seoketsa.



Learners from schools around Tshwane debating on human rights and 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy.



Learners proudly carry the national flag during the proceedings.



The 30 Years of Democracy Bus was also present at the Ditsong Cultural Museum in Pretoria.



government communications

Department: Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**LIMPOPO**

Thanyani Ravhura  
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461  
[thanyani@gcis.gov.za](mailto:thanyani@gcis.gov.za)

**MPUMALANGA**

Poppy Maluka (Acting)  
013 753 2397 or 071 606 3998  
[poppy@gcis.gov.za](mailto:poppy@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTH WEST**

Boitumelo Mosadi  
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906  
[boitumelom@gcis.gov.za](mailto:boitumelom@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Ofentse Moeti  
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330  
[Ofentse@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Ofentse@gcis.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Geraldine Thoppes  
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200  
[Geraldine@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Geraldine@gcis.gov.za)



**Ms Nelly Kubayi said:**

“The 1994 elections brought us freedom, democracy, human rights and a new national flag. Wearing seven colours of the flag makes me feel proudly South African.”



**Ms Basetsana Ntsweng said:**

“I feel that this event is planting the seeds of patriotism and nation-building; the future of our children looks bright in a country where they feel they belong. Viva Mzansi Viva!”



**Mr Zamuxolo Dukuza from the DoJ&CD:**  
 “The justice system of South Africa operates within the framework of proving cases beyond reasonable doubt. This is important because in the past, especially during apartheid, the very same justice system was used to frame innocent people. The law today considers such things that happened in the past. This may be interpreted as justice favouring perpetrators more than victims.”

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

**The GCIS hosts Human Rights Civic Education dialogue**

*By Ndyebo Kopo; GCIS, Eastern Cape*

On 26 March 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Alfred Nzo District, partnered with community development workers (CDWs) and the Ward Councillor of Ward 28 in eMaXesibeni (formerly Mount Ayliff), Cllr Lindikhaya Mveku, to host a community dialogue on human rights at the eMaXesibeni Community Hall.

The community dialogue served as an interactive civic education platform to engage residents on the importance and role of Chapter 9 and 10 institutions in helping citizens exercise their human rights.

Since the advent of democracy, there have been several constitutionally constituted institutions established to safeguard the human rights of people, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996; however, many people do not know about such institutions or their functions. Furthermore, access to such institutions, especially for rural-based communities such as eMaXesibeni, is a challenge.

The dialogue was an opportunity for attendees to interact directly with representatives from the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), Legal Aid South Africa, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) and the Office of the Public Protector, about their specific cases and on how to lodge a formal complaint.

Community members raised real-life cases they experienced daily, which ranged from sexual assault cases that were never properly investigated by the police, alleged abuse of power by some members of the South African Police Service, cases that dragged on for years in the eMaXesibeni Magistrate’s Court, high crime rates, police officers allegedly working with criminals and many other complaints.

Stakeholders shared information on their mandates with the residents, leading to a dialogue on Human Rights Month in South Africa and the mandate of the GCIS to close the information gap in society.



**Cllr Mveku welcoming stakeholders and community members to the dialogue.**



**Ms Ovayo Nqatsha, CDW coordinator at the Umzimvubu Local Municipality, facilitating the community dialogue.**



**Mr Arnold Mbalingontsi from the IEC sharing information on the functions and services of the commission.**



**Ward 28 community members gathered at the eMaXesibeni Community Hall to participate in a dialogue on the importance of Human Rights Month.**

## PRIORITY I: INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

### Programme empowers men to tackle challenges

By Khanyiso Seyisi; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

As part of Human Rights Month celebrations, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and Zomnotho Community Development coordinated a Men Championing Change programme at the eMalangeni Thusong Service Centre near the town of Umzinto, KwaZulu-Natal. The programme aimed to share information on the social ills affecting men – key among them being gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), family matters, marriage challenges, behavioural change and human rights violations. The Department of Human Settlements, together with Families South Africa and the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences, formed part of this programme.

The two-day programme was attended by predominantly men, who participated in a dialogue to find methods to prevent and end GBVF and other social challenges.

In addition, the GCIS led a dialogue on Human Rights Month focusing on key messages and held robust debates. The session was packed with discussions, and thereafter all the stakeholders responded to questions and gave feedback and clarity on matters raised.



Community members listening attentively during the Men Championing Change and Human Rights Month programmes held at the eMalangeni Thusong Service Centre.



Mr Mandla Thutshini, Ms Andile Cele and Ms Bongive Sibisi of Zomnotho Community Development.



Ms Cele engaging members of the community during the Men Championing Change programme at eMalangeni Thusong Service Centre.



Zomnotho Community Development official, Mr Wandile Xolo, answering questions during the dialogue.



**Ms Lerato Matlou:**

“I thoroughly enjoyed the dialogue; it was interactive and fun.”



**The president of the Student Representative Council, Ms Palesa Mogaki:**

“I have the right to free movement.”

## PRIORITY 1: INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

### Dialogue sparks youth conversation on human and constitutional rights

By Lilly Mohlosana; GCIS, North West

On 27 March 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) for a Human Rights Day dialogue with 50 students from the Orbit Technical Vocational Education and Training College in Rustenburg, North West.

The students were divided into two groups and tasked to name their groups. The first group called themselves the RED team and the second group called themselves the Liberated Ones. Each group handpicked a note with different constitutional rights and debated on it. Khumo from the Liberated Ones team read out, “I have the right to freedom of expression; what responsibility is placed on me as a South African?” There were rebuttals and counter-arguments around infringing on other people’s rights and mutual respect to everyone including women, children and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex-plus community.

Ms Nthabiseng Mogapi from the IEC educated the students on the mandate of the IEC of managing free and fair elections at all levels of government. She told the students about her experience as a first-time voter. “I was an 18-year old girl from a rural village in the Free State who just moved to Bloemfontein and everything was new to me. On the eve of the elections, we were told that the next day we are going to vote and we are all going to vote for X. Just like that, we all voted for X because we did not know what voting meant and the opportunities it afforded us as individuals. We were not as privileged as you are today, to get people to come to our schools and provide voter education.”

Mr Tebogo Mogomotsi from the IEC’s Human Resources and Corporate Services unit encouraged the students to participate in the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections and to regularly check the commission’s website for employment opportunities.



**Ms Mogapi from the IEC presenting their mandate during the dialogue.**



**GCIS official, Mr Ishmael Malema, telling the students that taking pictures of your ballot paper during elections is a criminal offence.**



**GCIS official, Ms Lilly Mohlosana, directing the dialogue.**