



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY I: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Agulhas Lighthouse Precinct upgrade set to boost tourism and jobs in Overberg

By Jason Lloyd; GCIS, Western Cape

Tourism Minister Ms Patricia de Lille, officially unveiled a newly-developed tourism infrastructure at the Agulhas Lighthouse Precinct in Agulhas National Park – marking a significant milestone for tourism development in the Overberg region.

The R82 million project, implemented through a partnership between the Department of Tourism (DOT) and South African National Parks, aims to enhance visitor experience, stimulate local economic growth and strengthen the region's competitiveness as a tourism destination.

Speaking at the event on 14 April 2026, Minister de Lille described the development as a key example of how infrastructure investment can unlock tourism potential while benefiting surrounding communities. She emphasised that tourism was a powerful driver of inclusive economic growth and job creation.

The upgraded precinct includes a 60-seater restaurant, an interpretation

centre, improved visitor facilities, upgraded access routes and enhanced infrastructure services. These improvements are designed to make the site more accessible and appealing to both domestic and international tourists.

According to the DOT, the project has already contributed to local economic upliftment by creating more than 100 jobs during construction and supporting small, medium and micro enterprises in the region.

Minister de Lille further highlighted that such developments formed part of the government's broader strategy to diversify South Africa's tourism offerings beyond traditional destinations and to promote sustainable tourism growth.

The Agulhas Lighthouse Precinct, located where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet, is expected to become a key attraction in the Western Cape, drawing increased visitor numbers and supporting long-term economic development in surrounding communities.



Minister Patricia de Lille has officially unveiled the newly developed tourism infrastructure at the Agulhas Lighthouse Precinct in Agulhas National Park. The event was also attended by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Mr Willie Aucamp.



The unveiling of the newly developed tourism infrastructure at the Agulhas Lighthouse Precinct in Agulhas National Park was attended by many people from across the Overberg District.



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

GCIS leads Freedom Month Dialogue at Watervaal Boven TVET College

By Zwanga Matsila; GCIS, Mpumalanga

As part of Freedom Month commemorations, the Watervaal Boven Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College held a student dialogue on 21 April 2026 in the Emakhazeni Local Municipality within the Nkangala District Municipality. The event was hosted by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in collaboration with the college and brought together key stakeholders including the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa.

The dialogue reflected on South Africa’s democratic journey and the meaning of freedom in the current social and economic context. SAPS representatives engaged students on issues of public safety, crime prevention and the role of citizens in supporting law and order. IEC officials educated students on democratic participation and the importance of informed and active voting.

GCIS led the engagement by facilitating discussions aimed at strengthening communication between government and young people. The session encouraged students to access credible government information and participate meaningfully in democratic processes that shape their communities and the country at large.

Campus Manager, Mr Peter Ledwaba, encouraged students to see themselves as future leaders who have a role to play in shaping the country’s development. He stressed that institutions such as TVET colleges were not only centres of technical and vocational training but also spaces for civic education and personal development.

Students actively participated in the dialogue by sharing their perspectives on freedom, education and youth development. The event successfully created a platform for meaningful interaction between students and government stakeholders, reinforcing the importance of civic awareness, responsibility and active citizenship among young people.



Mr Phosa Nkambule:
“I found the Freedom Month dialogue very informative and eye-opening. The session helped us to better understand the importance of democracy, civic responsibility and active participation in our communities.”



Ms Samantha Mbokoto:
“I found the session very informative and engaging. It gave me a better understanding of democracy, civic responsibility and the importance of young people participating in nation-building. The discussions helped me realise how important it is to make informed decisions, especially when it comes to voting and community involvement.”



Students attending the Freedom Month dialogue at Watervaal Boven College.

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

Eastern Cape Provincial Government celebrates Freedom Day in Alexandria

By Lunam Mdingi and Qiqa Ggobo; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 27 April 2026, the Eastern Cape (EC) Provincial Government hosted Freedom Day at the Derrick Mbele Stadium, bringing together communities to mark 32 years of freedom and 30 years since the adoption of the Constitution of South Africa of 1996.

The event reflected on South Africa’s journey towards democracy, honouring those who fought for liberation while acknowledging the progress achieved over the years. Under the theme: “Freedom and the Rule of Law”, the commemoration emphasised that freedom was sustained through strong institutions, respect for the law and active citizen participation.

The Premier of the Eastern Cape, Mr Oscar Mabuyane, stated that, “32 years of freedom is not only a milestone but also a reaffirmation of our collective national progress towards building a non-racial, democratic South Africa.”

In the EC, this vision is advanced through key development initiatives including the Thyspunt Nuclear Development Project in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality, which positions the province as a contributor to South Africa’s energy future. The district is also emerging as a hub for wind energy, with Kouga and Makana Local Municipalities attracting significant investment. Moreover, infrastructure upgrades, housing projects, and small-town development initiatives continue to improve the lives of residents. Service delivery challenges in areas such as the Ndlambe Local Municipality are being addressed through targeted government interventions, including electrification and road upgrades.

The commemoration also supported local economic activity. Government departments and small businesses showcased services through exhibition stalls; enabling communities to access information, support and opportunities. The Premier engaged directly with exhibitors, demonstrating government's commitment to strengthening service delivery and supporting community development.

Residents also benefited from “services on wheels”, which brought essential services closer to communities. Participating institutions included the departments of Home Affairs; Health; Social Development; Transport; Sport, Arts and Culture; Employment and Labour; the South African Social Security Agency; Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; Government Communication and Information System; the South African Revenue Service and local Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges among others.

Overall, the commemoration reinforced the importance of unity, equality and active citizenship while reaffirming a shared commitment to building a better EC where freedom is protected and enjoyed by all.



Premier Mabuyane and Member of the Executive Council (MEC) Ms Sibulele Ngongo, during the Freedom Day commemoration.



The South African Police Service welcoming MECs, Ms Nonkqubela Pieters and Mr Fundile Gade; Deputy Minister Mr Zolile Burns-Ncamashe and Premier Mabuyane.



Premier Mabuyane during a walkabout at the exhibition stalls.

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

Willow Crescent Secondary School marks Earth Day focussing on the environment and water conservation

By Moloko Segale; GCIS, Gauteng

As part of the International Mother Earth Day commemorations on 22 April 2026, Willow Crescent Secondary School hosted an event to highlight the importance of water conservation and environmental management. Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for the Gauteng Department of Environment, Mr Ewan Botha, attended the event and delivered a keynote address on environmental protection and waste management.

Stakeholders in attendance included the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Water Wise from Rand Water, Seriti Institute, City of Johannesburg: Environment and Infrastructure Services Department, New Pathways Community Education and Training, Bontle ke Botho and Clean Circle Recycling.

Learners took centre stage through presentations on environmental and water management, showcasing projects and solutions to local challenges.

The session aimed to strengthen awareness and encourage responsible stewardship of natural resources among young people.

To share practical water-saving tips, the Water Wise team highlighted the DROP-BY-DROP initiative introduced two years ago to address water losses caused by leaking pipes, often linked to inadequate household maintenance. The campaign promotes simple, practical actions that residents can take to detect leaks early and reduce water loss. Activities on the day also included planting of fruit trees and indigenous trees.

The event reinforced the link between environmental protection, water security and active citizen participation. Partners encouraged learners and the broader community to adopt water-wise practices and to report infrastructure faults in support of safeguarding Gauteng's limited water resources.



Ms Susana Hlungwana:

"I am a learner at Willow Crescent Secondary School. We should repair leaking pipes in our households. Proper maintenance of water infrastructure is essential to ensure clean water for everyone. Stricter enforcement is also needed to address water wastage. Industries should consider proper disposal of waste and spills to ensure water is not polluted to protect human health. We should consider conserving water."



Ms Lamika Jardine:

"The environment is very important to us because it enables us to breathe clean air every day. We have landfill sites nearby, which pose health risks. Our main focus is to improve the environment and ensure that pipes are repaired so that we have access to clean water. We can do more to contribute to a cleaner environment."



MEC Botha during the engagement session on environmental protection, waste management and water conservation.



MEC Botha leads the tree-planting ceremony and Willow Crescent Secondary School learners during the Water Wise pledge and water-saving activities.