



MYDISTRICTTODAY

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



Issue no. 23: July 2026

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

Nandipa Sondati-Thawa (Acting)
043 722 2609 or 072 611 3990
nandipa@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Mthunzi Mkhungo (Acting)
051 448 4505 or 064 545 1185
mthunzi@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Senzeni Ngubane (Acting)
012 473 0402 or 065 595 5203
senzeni@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

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

Small Business Clinic brings government support closer to local entrepreneurs

By: Qiqi Gqobo; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 12 June 2026, the Department of Small Business Development in partnership with Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM), hosted a Small Business Clinic at the City Hall in KuGompo city. The clinic aimed to improve access to economic opportunities, funding and business development support for entrepreneurs, informal traders, women-owned enterprises and youth-led businesses.

It brought together government departments, development agencies and other stakeholders to share information on support programmes available to small businesses and cooperatives. It also gave entrepreneurs an opportunity to engage directly with service providers and access resources to help grow and sustain their businesses.

In her welcoming address, BCMM Executive Mayor, Cllr Princess Faku, highlighted the important role small businesses played in the local economy. She said that small enterprises were the backbone of economic development and contributed significantly to job creation and inclusive economic growth.

The Mayor also thanked the department for bringing services directly to communities and ensuring that opportunities reached those who needed them most.

Delivering the keynote address, the Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Stella Ndabeni, emphasised the importance of empowering youth and women through improved access to finance, markets, skills development and productive assets. She also highlighted government's commitment to creating a supportive environment for small businesses, enabling them to grow and contribute to economic transformation.

A highlight of the programme was the handover of business support equipment to beneficiaries. The handover demonstrated government's continued commitment to supporting micro, small and medium enterprises by providing practical tools and resources to assist businesses improve productivity and create jobs.



Executive Mayor Faku and Minister Ndabeni addressed entrepreneurs and members of the media during the Small Business Clinic.



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

MPUMALANGA

Hlengiwe Nhlabathi-Mokota
013 753 2397 or 084 708 4214
hlengiweh@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

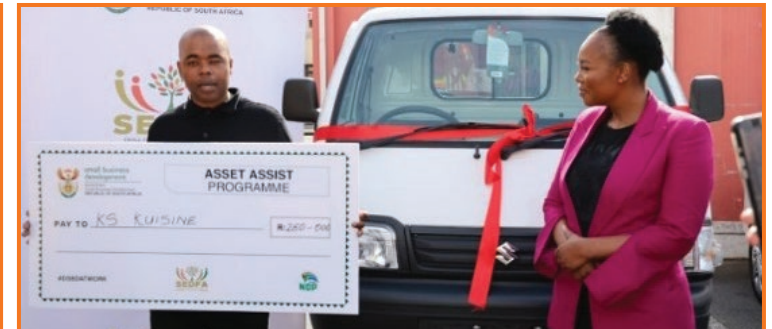
Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za



The Small Business Clinic included a Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) exhibition stall, GCIS podcast interview and a handover of business support equipment to beneficiaries.

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

GCIS and IEC drive voter registration awareness through Galeshewe street activation

By: Kgomotso Sentso and Mpho More; GCIS, Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Northern Cape, partnered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to take voter registration awareness directly to the public during a street activation on 19 June 2026, at the corner of Barkley Road and Seochoareng Street in Galeshewe.

The initiative formed part of preparations for the voter registration weekend meant to encourage eligible citizens to register to vote, verify their registration details and ensure that their information was correct.

During the activation, GCIS and IEC officials engaged with motorists and pedestrians, distributed voter education material and provided information on the voter registration process. Community members were also reminded to confirm their voting station details and update their personal information where necessary.

The activation created an important platform to promote active citizen participation and reinforce the message that voter registration was essential to strengthen South Africa's democracy.



IEC and GCIS officials distribute voter registration pamphlets to members of the public.



IEC officials at the street activation in Galeshewe.

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

North West hosts Youth Cooperative and Entrepreneur Seminar

By: Karabo Diale; GCIS, North West

During the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SoNA), President Cyril Ramaphosa reflected on key milestones in South Africa's democratic history, including the 50th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto youth uprising. The courage of the 1976 generation, who confronted an oppressive education system and demanded dignity, equality and freedom, is a powerful reminder of the role young people play in shaping the country's future. Today's youth continue to face significant challenges, particularly unemployment, which requires urgent and coordinated intervention.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a Youth Cooperative and Entrepreneur Seminar at Gelukspan Multi-purpose Centre in the Mahikeng Local Municipality. The seminar brought together government departments and stakeholders to equip young people with information on how to start their own businesses, access government funding and sustain successful enterprises.

The initiative was supported by the Office of the North West (NW) Premier, Mahikeng Local Municipality, Community Development Workers (CDWs), National Youth Development Agency

(NYDA), Small Enterprise Development Finance Agency, departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA); Agriculture and Rural Development; Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism; Social Development, South African Revenue Service (SARS), North West Gambling Board and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

The GCIS outlined the purpose of the seminar and encouraged the youth to vote in the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections. The IEC spoke to participants about voter registration and the importance of participating in democratic processes. Representatives from participating departments and agencies also presented programmes and services that support youth entrepreneurship and employment. Young people had the opportunity to engage with presenters, ask questions and receive guidance on different programmes and services available to assist them in their entrepreneurial and employment pursuits.

GCIS spoke to young people; capturing their views, experiences and aspirations regarding entrepreneurship, employment and civic participation.



Ms Gakelekwe Pule (left) and Ms Lorraine Mantsi (right) from CoGTA facilitate the programme during the youth seminar in Gelukspan.



Mr Christopher Mahobe from the NYDA and Youth Advocacy Coordination in the Office of the NW Premier, gives an overview of youth development through the National Youth Policy 2030.



Community members and youth from Gelukspan attended the seminar in large numbers.



Ms Matlotlo Kgopisho:
“I’m happy that GCIS has brought NYDA to our village.”



Mr Gabriel Novolo:
“Today’s session will help me grow my business. Thanks to GCIS and our CDW.”

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

Ehlanzeni District Mayoral Imbizo brings government services closer to rural communities

By: Joy Themba; GCIS, Mpumalanga

Residents of Mgobodzi and surrounding villages in the Nkomazi Local Municipality accessed essential government services closer to their homes during the Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor's Imbizo held on 22 June 2026 in Mpumalanga. The outreach event brought together government departments, agencies and local partners to make services more accessible, reduce travel costs for residents and strengthen engagement with rural communities.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) coordinated the outreach in partnership with the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Department of Home Affairs (DHA), Department of Health, Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), Statistics South Africa (StatsSA), Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency, Laapeng Foundation, Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency and local banking institutions.

SASSA assisted beneficiaries with services such as changing social grant payment methods and provided information on how to apply online. Absa and Nedbank supported residents who wanted to open or switch bank accounts for grant payments. DHA services were also available to residents who needed assistance with smart ID cards.

The GCIS used the platform to share information on 30 Years of the Constitution and Milestones of Freedom campaign activities. Ms Joy Themba from the GCIS, highlighted the government services available to communities. She also supported the IEC's efforts to encourage eligible residents, especially young people aged 16 and older, to register to vote and to apply for smart IDs.

Delivering the keynote address, Ehlanzeni District Municipality's Cllr Shabangu, outlined programmes delivered by the district and Nkomazi Local Municipality, as well as those nearing completion. He said that water challenges in Nkomazi remained a priority and that the municipality was working with the Department of Water and Sanitation to complete the Masibekela Water Treatment Plant so that communities could receive reliable water services. Residents also raised concerns around policing, health facilities and poor road infrastructure; noting that the distance to the Tonga Police Station and difficult road conditions affected emergency response times.

The imbizo demonstrated the value of coordinated outreach in improving access to public services, especially for rural residents who often travel long distances to reach government offices.



StatsSA official, Mr Robert Chiolane and Mr Themba Nhlebeya from the IEC shared information on services available to residents and explained how they could access IEC services during outreach and voter registration weekends.



Residents from Mgobodzi and surrounding villages attended the imbizo in large numbers and accessed services offered by participating government departments and partners present there.



Mr Bongani Maepa:

"I appreciate the government bringing these services closer to our community because we do not have to spend money travelling to Home Affairs and SASSA to apply for identity documents and grants."



Ms Eveline Masuku:

"I heard through the loudhailer that Home Affairs would be at Mgobodzi today, so I came prepared. I lost my identity document and need to apply for a new one so that I can be ready for the upcoming elections."



Mr Rhulani Mhlongo:

"I encourage young people to register to vote this weekend so that elected ward councillors can deliver services to our communities."



Mr Mario Masuku:

"I am going to collect my identity document on Saturday 20 June 2026 and register to vote for the first time. I recently turned 16. I believe registering will help ensure that government knows how many people live in my ward when planning for service delivery."