



MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 27: August 2025

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PRIORITY 2: REDUCE POVERTY AND TACKLE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

Madimbo Thusong Service Centre delivers services to the people

By Netshikweta Doctrine; GCIS, Limpopo

As part of reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, community members from Madimbo and surrounding areas gathered at the Madimbo Thusong Service Centre on 30 June 2025, to access much needed services.

The initiative is one of the government programmes which aims to improve the living conditions of the marginalised and bring services to the doorsteps of people living in rural communities. The Thusong Services Centre programme requires the public and private sectors to render services collectively under one roof and cut travelling costs for the community.

Community members were able to certify documents, apply for social grants and check progress on their different applications with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) gave young people an opportunity to apply for identity documents (IDs), while the elderly applied for Smart ID cards. Standard Bank and ABSA were also present to assist beneficiaries open new accounts.

SASSA Acting District Head in the Vhembe District, Mr Mavhungu Tshipuke, stated that the agency rendered services every Tuesday at Madimbo Thusong Centre, and is dedicated to ensuring that they always paid social grants to the right people at the right time and place.

Musanda Vho-Nemadimbo appreciated the good initiative by government. Expressing his gratitude, he said, "From the onset, the initiative of Madimbo Thusong Centre was a way of advocating government and private sectors to bring services closer to the people and render them in a safe place. Today I witnessed the happiness of my subjects after accessing services within travelling cost. The little money they have will bring food to the table. I say bravo to the government and private sector for the wonderful job they are doing for our community."



Mr Joseph Munzhedzi from Malale village having his fingerprints taken to apply for a grant at the Madimbo Thusong Centre.



Community members queuing to open bank accounts.



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Ms Patricia Ndou from Madimbo village signing after applying for a Smart ID card at the DHA's mobile truck.



Community members being assisted in the South African Police Service mobile truck.



Ms Patricia Ndou:

"Today I feel honoured after I successfully applied for my Smart ID card. Indeed, I am a real South African citizen. Using the green ID booklet is not safe this time. We need to move with the times. I thank the government for having programmes that put people first. Today we gathered here at Madimbo Thusong Service Centre in numbers, accessing both government and private sector services. This is a great achievement, as for most of the people, it is not easy to travel to Musina or Mutale, as we are unemployed. Today the government made sure that all people got services at their doorstep. Indeed, this is a government that takes care of the people."

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

Youth educational excursion to Parliament

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

The Cape Winelands District Office of the Department of Social Development requested an education and information intervention from the Cape Winelands Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) to arrange a trip for a group of foster care children to Parliament to understand how the institutions of democracy work. The educational tour took place on 11 July 2025.

This excursion to Parliament provided the youth with valuable insights into the functions of the legislature, the law-making process and the role of citizens in a democracy. This excursion included a guided tour of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) and a virtual tour of the National Assembly, which is currently under construction, as well as learning about the history and structure of Parliament.

This educational programme empowered the youth to engage in democratic processes, understand their rights and responsibilities and hold their elected officials accountable.

This group of youngsters gained a deeper understanding of their country's political system and the importance of civic participation.

After the visit, facilitators encouraged the group to reflect on their experiences, discuss what they learnt and consider how they can apply their knowledge in their communities.



The group of young people from Worcester in the Breede Valley Municipality, waiting at the entrance of Parliament to start the educational tour.



Mr. Kenneth Bange from the Parliament's Public Education unit engaging with youth on the functions of Parliament. The session was held at the GCIS Imbizo Centre.



The group posing for a picture at the GCIS Imbizo Centre.



The group from Worcester also visited the NCOP.



Mr Edward Thabiso Mokhethi:

"I have learnt as a young person, the importance of the IEC. As young people, we are too lazy to participate in the democratic processes, always thinking that our voices are not heard. It is up to us to change this, and we can do this by voting."



Mr Lucky Marukua:

"It is important that the youth knows what is happening around us and to be part of processes that are meant to empower us. Voting is very important, as it gives us a voice to make changes that we want to see in our lives."

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

Youth empowered with information through Voter Education Programme

By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) recently partnered with the Westrand Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Community Development Workers (CDWs) to conduct a Local Government Election Awareness Programme in Kokosi, Tarlton and Merafong City. Held at the Kokosi Teachers' Centre on 30 June 2025, the programme aimed to educate youth about the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections and encourage their active participation in democratic processes.

Through this initiative, young people were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their future. IEC representative, Ms Ntombi Thakhuli, provided participants with a deeper understanding of the electoral process, the importance of voting and how their participation can shape the future of their communities. She said, "The power to shape your future lies in your hands. By voting, getting involved in

your communities and exercising your civic responsibility, you can create a brighter tomorrow for yourselves and generations to come."

By focusing on youth participation, the programme fostered a culture of active citizenship and ensured that the voices of young people were heard. As South Africa prepares for the upcoming elections, initiatives like this play a crucial role in promoting voter education and participation. The programme demonstrated the importance of collaboration between government and electoral bodies in empowering citizens, particularly the youth, to exercise their right to vote and shape the future of their communities.

Other stakeholders in attendance included organisations that provide youth services in Kokosi such as Rudo Home-based Care and New Revelations Children's Hope.



Ms Thakhuli from the IEC and Mr Simon Kwabeni, a CDW from CoGTA, engaging with the youth of Kokosi.



Ms Tshidi Mokoka from the GCIS sharing information on government programmes and the role of GCIS in communities.

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

Building sustainable community media

By Phiwokuhle Zokufa; GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) handed over state-of-the-art radio studios on 11 July 2025. The Sajonisi Youth Radio Station funded by the MDDA, is equipped with new, technologically advanced equipment. The support comes as part of government interventions to increase community media platforms that have played a significant role since the dawn of democracy and continue to inform and educate communities.

Sajonisi Youth Radio Station, with presenters who are mostly young people, plays a vital role in being a voice for the community of Port St Johns, a platform to share stories and provide access to information. The radio station also gives a platform to vulnerable groups in communities that include persons living with disabilities, elderly people and the youth.

The management team expressed their commitment to building on the radio station's success and expanding its reach. They outlined plans to introduce new programmes, strengthen partnerships with local organisations and increase the station's online presence.

During his interview at the radio station, Deputy Minister (DM) in The Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong said, "The most important thing is that you have a community radio station that broadcasts in a local language. The purpose of the handover is to ensure that the community of Port St Johns has a voice through community media that educates them and serves as a hub for content and creativity."

"I live with a disability and the station assists us with providing awareness about disability. Through the station, we can reach other people living with disabilities and make them aware of issues that affect them," said Ms Nombini Maza from the Port St Johns Disability Organisation. She further stated that when they have awareness campaigns on disability, the station helps them with publicity.



DM Morolong on a walkabout at Sajonisi Youth Radio studios during the handover of equipment.



DM Morolong officially unveiled a plaque during the handover.



DM Morolong joined by the Mayor of Port St Johns Local Municipality, Cllr Cebisa Sana Mazuza, during a radio interview at Sajonisi Youth Radio Station.



Station Manager of Sajonisi Youth Radio, Mr Simiso Shoji, taking DM Morolong through some of the technology at the station.



Ms Tania Lawrence:

“The radio station has brought change, especially around issues of unemployment among young people and it has empowered them.”



Ms Nozibele Tshithwa:

“The station does talk about support of elderly women and educates people about taking care of the elderly and not abusing them.”



Ms Nombini Maza:

“The establishment of the radio station has added value to our awareness campaigns; we are able to reach other people living with disabilities through the radio.”