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

Efforts to curb the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak

By Tlotlisang Koen; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 29 January 2026, the GCIS hosted a public education radio slot at the Ekhephini Community Radio Station. The Department of Agriculture (DoA)'s Veterinarian, Dr Mzwanele Bekayake, educated listeners on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) including its causes, impact on farming, treatment and precautionary measures to take when livestock is infected. The Joe Gqabi District's economy thrives on farming, particularly livestock, which is why FMD poses a serious threat.



Dr Bekayake (blue shirt), from the Joe Gqabi District being interviewed by DJ Pablo during the public education radio slot.

Dr Bekayake noted that FMD currently affected mostly cows, but that sheep and pigs were also at risk of infection when necessary precautions were not observed. "We are encouraging farmers and all livestock owners to adhere to the guiding procedures issued by the DoA when buying and selling livestock so that we can all work together to minimise the spread of FMD," he said. The DoA is currently conducting awareness campaigns across the district to educate farmers/livestock owners on ways to minimise the spread of FMD.



Photos taken after the public education radio slot at Ekhephini Community Radio studios.

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

Back-to-School campaign brings hope to flood-affected Mopani District

By Eunice Nkuna; GCIS, Limpopo

On 26 January 2026, the Back-to-School campaign swept into Khesethwane and Makobo High Schools in Mopani District, bringing joy and support to learners and teachers who were reeling from the devastating floods that disrupted the start of the school year.

As South Africa welcomed the new academic year, learners across the country returned to school, eager to learn and grow; however, in Mopani District, the story was different. Floods ravaged vital infrastructure, forcing schools to close and learners to fall behind. The campaign aimed to bridge the gap by providing much needed support and resources to get schools back on track after the floods.

Government officials, led by the South African Police Service (SAPS), visited the two high schools, focusing on critical issues affecting learners, including gender-based violence and femicide, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and safety. The team emphasised the importance of reporting crimes and encouraged learners to speak out against bullying, peer pressure and other forms of violence.

The schools' Management Team has implemented measures to ensure safety and discipline, and the government remains committed to continued support. The campaign's positive tone and message of hope resonated with the learners. The event reinforced government's reputation as a caring and developmental state, prioritising education and the well-being of young South Africans.



Constable Mtileni Nick from Mokwakwaila SAPS addressing learners at Khesethwane High School.



Mr Thapelo Ramatapa from the DCS advising children about safety at Makobo High School.



Makobo High School learners listening to tips and advice from government officials.



Learners at Khesethwane High School received information on bullying.

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

Live radio broadcast on GBVF focusing on restorative justice

By Thenjiwe Konono; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 10 December 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with Ulwazi FM, hosted a live radio broadcast during a gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) campaign in Richmond, Northern Cape. The broadcast focused on restorative justice as an important approach to addressing GBVF within communities. Richmond was chosen as the host town after being identified as having the highest number of GBVF cases in the Pixley ka Seme District and affects women, children, elderly persons, people with disabilities and men. The initiative aimed to raise community awareness about the services available to support victims, rehabilitate perpetrators and assist all those affected by GBVF.

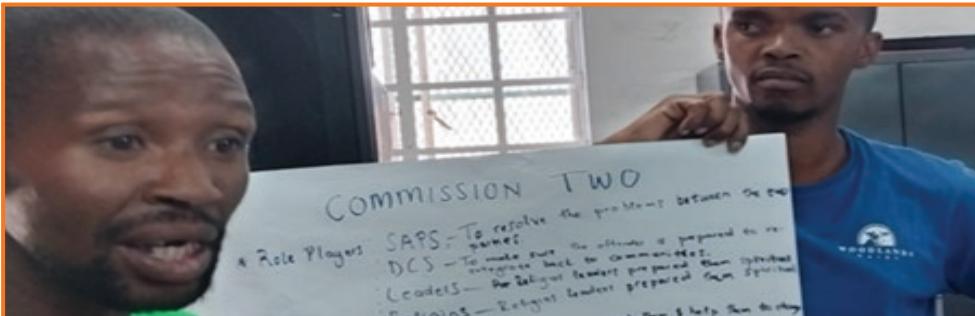


Residents from Richmond participated in the event.

Various stakeholders participated in the event, including the departments of Social Development (DSD), Justice and Constitutional Development, Correctional Services (DCS), South African Police Service (SAPS), National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and several non-governmental organisations working in the GBVF sector. The DCS led the presentation on restorative justice and offender rehabilitation, highlighting its partnership with the DSD to address the harm caused by crime through victim, offender and community involvement. SAPS and the NPA also shared updates on GBVF case statistics and the status of cases within the district.



Acting Area Commissioner, Mr Nkululeko Dyasi, educated community members on the link between restorative justice and GBVF. He focused on the need to correct and rehabilitate perpetrators.



Presentations were done by participants, mainly on the impact of restorative justice.



Officials from the DCS and SAPS during a live radio interview on Ulwazi FM with the GCIS presenter.

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

Thembisile Hani Local Municipality hosts pre-SoNA activation at Kwaggafontein

By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 30 January 2026, the Government Communication and Information System collaborated with the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality to conduct a taxi rank and road intersection activation in preparation for the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SoNA). The SoNA is delivered by the President during a joint sitting of Parliament's National Assembly and National Council of Provinces.

The outreach aimed to raise awareness of SoNA 2026, which will take place on 12 February 2026, and to ensure that government communication remains accessible, inclusive and responsive, particularly for citizens who may not always use formal platforms.

President Cyril Ramaphosa will outline government's priorities, progress and planned interventions for the year ahead; specifically issues affecting communities including economic growth, service delivery, job creation, infrastructure development, safety and social protection.

Community members were grateful for the engagement; some noted they were not familiar with it but were following up on the said date. They were also made aware of fraudulent institutions of higher learning and were urged to verify their authenticity before enrolling their kids. Information on the Independent Electoral Commission's online registration for the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections was also shared, together with promotional material.



SoNA activation at Kwaggafontein in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.



Ms Sonto Radebe:

"I am glad about the campaign reminding us about the SoNA. Many people did not have information about SoNA, and I believe most people are now aware and will listen and view the event through various media platforms of their choice."



Ms Nolusapho Klaas:

"Thank you for the reminder about the SoNA. I am looking forward to the President's speech and hope he will address the serious challenges of unemployment and job creation."