



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Issue no. 31: August 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 3: BUILD A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

GCIS and partners tackle substance abuse in Thembisile Hani

By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 28 July 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the Local Drug Action Committee of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and the Nkangala In-patient Treatment Centre, hosted a substance abuse awareness activation in Tweefontein.

The activation formed part of government's ongoing efforts to combat substance abuse and promote healthier communities. The activation was also aligned with the Milestones of Freedom campaign, which focuses on improving the citizen's quality of life through integrated service delivery and active community engagement.

The programme provided community members with information on the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse. It also encouraged people affected by substance dependency to seek help. On-site screening services were offered, while social workers assessed and supported those who required treatment and rehabilitation services.

The activation recorded positive outcomes. Four service users were assessed and accepted for referral to a nearby rehabilitation centre where they will receive further treatment, care and support.

The campaign brought together government departments and stakeholders to strengthen the response to substance abuse. Participants included representatives from GCIS, the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, the South African Police Service, the departments of Social Development, Health, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Human Settlements, as well as members of the local business sector.

Information materials on substance abuse prevention, treatment options, and available support services were distributed to community members to raise awareness and improve access to essential services.

GCIS reaffirmed government's commitment to working with communities, local government structures and stakeholders to reduce substance abuse. Through partnerships and sustained outreach programmes, government continues to promote safer, healthier and drug-free communities.



Pictures taken during the substance abuse awareness activation in Tweefontein.



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



Ms Selinah Masanabo:

"I attended today's activation as a concerned parent hoping for a positive outcome. As parents, we are tired of being blamed for our children's behaviour in the community, which is often linked to substance abuse. This event was much needed and important for some of us. I am grateful for the opportunity and thank government for bringing these services to us."



Mr Xolani Nkosingathi Sibiya:

"I had an opportunity to raise my substance abuse problem today. I was assisted and waiting for the outcome. I appreciate the programme because many people need help but cannot afford to reach institutions that support people with addiction. I wish the programme could be extended to other areas to assist more people. The government cares about communities through services such as social grants, hospitals and other health care facilities. I am happy and grateful that this opportunity has been brought closer to our community."

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

Beaufort West youth learn about SADC opportunities

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Roundtable Dialogue in Beaufort West on 21 July 2026.

The session brought together members of the Beaufort West Youth Council and the Beaufort West South African Police Service (SAPS) Youth Crime Prevention Desk. The dialogue formed part of GCIS' public education programme to raise awareness about South Africa's role in SADC and the country's upcoming SADC Chairship.

Participants were introduced to the history, purpose and objectives of SADC. Discussions focused on how regional cooperation supports economic development, trade, infrastructure, peace and security, education and youth empowerment in Southern Africa.

The dialogue explored what South Africa's leadership of SADC could mean for citizens, particularly young people. Participants discussed opportunities linked to skills development, entrepreneurship,

investment, tourism, job creation and stronger collaboration between member states. GCIS encouraged the young leaders to become ambassadors for regional integration. They were urged to share accurate information in their communities and participate in programmes that promote development and active citizenship.

The engagement concluded with the Proudly South African Special Edition of the Shesha 3.2.1 board game which educates citizens about the country's history, democracy, national symbols and institutions.

The interactive activity reinforced key messages from the dialogue and promoted teamwork, civic knowledge and national pride in an enjoyable and engaging way. The roundtable formed part of GCIS' broader commitment to keeping communities, particularly young people, informed about government priorities. It also demonstrated how regional cooperation can create opportunities that contribute to improved livelihoods and a better quality of life.



Young people from the Beaufort West Youth Council and the Beaufort West SAPS Youth Crime Prevention Desk at the SADC Roundtable.



One of the learners from Beaufort West, Ms Junior Mayor, sharing her views on SADC.



Participants took part in a roundtable discussion.



Participants played the Proudly South African Special Edition of the Shesha 3.2.1 board game, which tests knowledge of South Africa and promotes active citizenship.

PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Science Career Expo opens doors for uMkhanyakude youth

By Jacob Mkhize; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Nomalungelo Gina led a Science Career Expo at Umhlabuyalingana in uMkhanyakude on 24 July 2026. The expo sought to broaden access to science, technology and innovation opportunities for learners and out-of-school youth. Held as part of National Science Month, the programme raised awareness about the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), related fields of study, training pathways and future-orientated skills.

The expo brought together more than 50 exhibitors from science councils, higher education institutions, government departments and agencies. Participating departments and entities included the department's of Health, Employment and Labour, Basic Education, as well as the South African Police Service, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), and the National Youth Development Agency.

Dr Gina said the expo was aimed at encouraging learners to make informed subject choices and to consider careers in critical and future-focused fields. "All subjects are important, but science opens

doors for critical skills," she said. She encouraged learners to visit the exhibition stands, engage with exhibitors and learn more about opportunities available to them.

Ms Thulile Mdluli, a learner from Mshudu High School, said the expo had helped her to better understand the subject choices required for her preferred career path. "I am excited to be part of this career expo. Since my dream is to become an engineer, the expo helped me to understand the correct subject choices to select. I also learnt that engineering plays an important role in sugarcane processing and sugar production," she said.

The programme also supported households that had not yet benefitted from the broadcast digital migration programme. Six families from the area were visited and assisted with the migration from analogue to digital television. With support from the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, beneficiaries received set-top boxes and television sets, which were installed immediately.



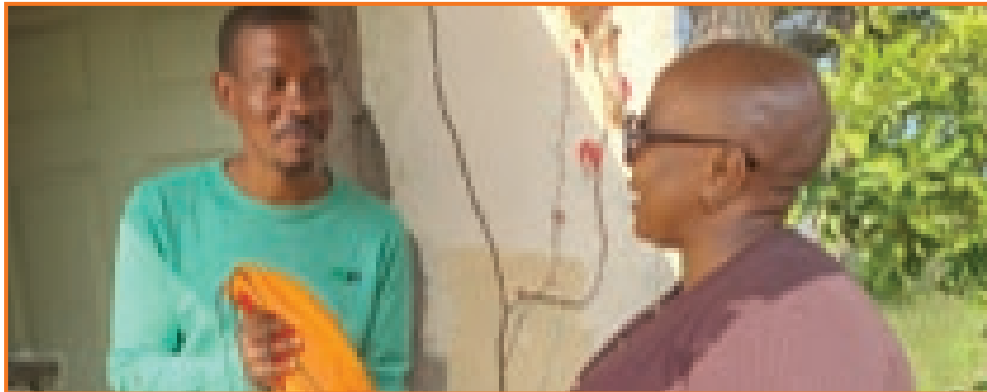
Deputy Minister Gina delivering the welcome address.



Deputy Minister's entourage visiting exhibition stalls.



Learners accessing information from exhibitors.



Deputy Minister Gina engaging community members who received set-top boxes as part of the migration from analogue to digital analogue.



Ms Tebogo Somo said:

"This was an inspiring and informative session aimed at empowering women. I encourage women to move beyond comparison and competition, and embrace a culture of collaboration, empathy and mutual empowerment."



Ms Ruth Molefe said:

"Women should unite because they bear the brunt of social ills such as GBVF, substance abuse, unemployment, poverty, anxiety and hopelessness. It is encouraging to see women from different backgrounds coming together to discuss issues affecting them and to seek common solutions."

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

Alexandra women unite to commemorate Women's Month

By Robbie Senoelo; GCIS, Gauteng

On 19 August 2026, 21 organisations and institutions joined hands to commemorate Women's Month 2026 through a women's empowerment session at East Bank Hall in Alexandra.

South Africa marked the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Women's March, where more than 20 000 women from across South Africa marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the extension of pass laws to women. Held under the theme "Empowered Women Empower the Nation", the commemoration paid tribute to the women of 1956 who fought for human rights, gender equality and social justice. It also formed part of the broader Milestones of Freedom campaign, which is being observed under the theme "Honouring the Past, Delivering the Future." Women's Month provides an opportunity for government and civil society to highlight the challenges confronting women and profile programmes and policies that advance women's empowerment and gender equality.

Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs Inc. (ENS), together with partners such as the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, The

Salvation Army, Family and Marriage Society of South Africa, Government Communication and Information System, the City of Johannesburg's Department of Social Development, the Independent Electoral Commission, Legal Aid South Africa, the Gauteng departments of Social Development and Community Safety, Traditional Healers Organisation and other community organisations, participated in the dialogue and information-sharing session.

Discussions focused on the role women play in one another's lives, the daughter- and mother-in-law relationship, abuse experienced by women, ways in which women can support one another, and social services available to victims of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

Delivering message of the day, Gogo Brenda Selibi, National Secretary of the Traditional Healers Organisation and Chief Operating Officer of the Alexandra Masiphephe Network, called on women to unite and uplift one another. She said: "A woman's greatest legacy is not what she achieves alone, but the lives she lifts along the way. As women, we cannot celebrate Women's Month in August and turn against one another the following month."



Gogo Selibi engaging women during the Women's Month commemoration in Alexandra.



Local women participate in the Women's Month commemoration at East Bank Hall in Alexandra.