



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Tourism Month launched through road activation

By Eunice Nkuna and Mike Mathebula; GCIS, Limpopo

On 1 September 2026, the Ba-Phalaborwa Local and Mopani District Municipalities launched Tourism Month with a road activation along the R71 provincial route. The activation aimed to promote local attractions and encourage residents and visitors to support tourism businesses in the area. Providing tourist information, Mopani District Executive Mayor, Cllr Pule Shayi, said that the (KNP)'s Phalaborwa Gate admitted no less than 700 visitors daily. He urged visitors to book online before travelling to avoid being turned away.

Ba-Phalaborwa Mayor, Cllr Merriam Malatji, encouraged residents to support local tourism: "This Tourism Month, I invite residents to explore their own backyard – visit local attractions, experience our culture and wildlife, support tourism businesses and discover something new about the place we call home." She added that Ba-Phalaborwa was ready to welcome visitors from the local area and beyond. During National Parks Week ("Mahala Week") which took place from 7 to 13 September 2026, citizens could enter the KNP and other parks for free.



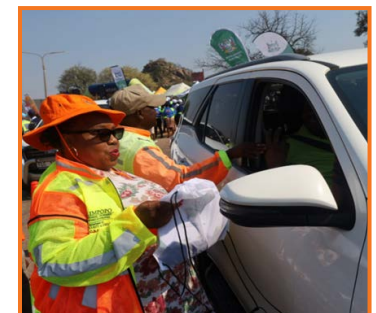
Mayor Malatji (floral dress) giving commuters and drivers goodies and encouraging them to visit the KNP.



Mayor Shayi interacts with tourists on their way to the KNP.



Traffic officials assist Mayor Shayi as he hands out goody bags and interacts with motorists.



Mayor Malatji encouraging motorists to drive safely.



government
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PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Women take centre stage in KZN's liquor industry

By Mlungisi Dlamini; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Women are making significant contributions to KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)'s liquor industry, with the provincial regulator acknowledging their strong compliance record and role in local economic growth. At its Women in Business Seminar held in Pietermaritzburg on Thursday, 20 August 2026, the KZN Economic Regulatory Authority (KZNERA) encouraged more women to enter the regulated liquor industry and provided existing licence holders with practical information to grow their businesses.

KZNERA Communication Manager, Ms Clarissa Naidoo, said that women licence holders had shown particularly strong levels of compliance. "Statistically, women licence holders across both the liquor and gambling sectors are doing very well when it comes to compliance. They often outshine the men," she said. The seminar, held at the Ishnana Hotel during Women's Month, assisted women to understand how to enter the liquor and gambling

industries, access funding and meet regulatory requirements. Naidoo said that the authority wanted to do more than regulate the industry but also to assist business owners build sustainable enterprises by supporting, uplifting and empowering them. Naidoo added that compliance was essential for women who wanted to expand their businesses, particularly when it came to licensing and tax obligations.

Participants also received guidance on funding opportunities and on staying compliant with the South African Revenue Service. The KZNERA is also working to assist informal and unlicensed traders move into the regulated economy. The authority stated that the transition would increase compliance and create opportunities for more women to establish legitimate, sustainable businesses.



Business owners attending the Women in Business Seminar at the Ishnana Hotel, Pietermaritzburg.



Participants listen to speakers at the Women in Business Seminar.



KZNERA announcing the names of women who showed consistent compliance.



Prize winners receive cheques in recognition of consistent compliance.

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

Women in Leeu Gamka empowered through entrepreneurship seminar

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

Women entrepreneurs from Leeu Gamka were given an opportunity to strengthen their businesses, explore support avenues and learn about digital marketing during a Women's Month Cooperative and Entrepreneurship Seminar held on Wednesday, 26 August 2026. The seminar, hosted in collaboration with the Western Cape (WC) Government Community Development Workers Programme, brought together women from the community for an interactive session focused on entrepreneurship, business development and access to government support. The seminar aimed to bring practical information directly to women in Leeu Gamka.

Representatives from the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA) also participated in the programme, providing information on the organisation's services and available financial and non-financial support for entrepreneurs. Participants were introduced to opportunities such as the Spaza Shop Support Fund, which assists eligible township and rural spaza shops with activities such as stock acquisition, business formalisation, compliance and operational sustainability. The session provided an important platform for women to ask questions about accessing support and to understand the

requirements of business funding and development programmes.

The Government Communication and Information System, together with the WC Department of Health and Wellness, also focused on the growing role of digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in business. Participants were shown how AI tools could assist them develop and adapt business descriptions, promotional messages and other marketing material. The session highlighted how technology could assist small businesses to communicate more effectively with customers and present their products and services professionally. For many entrepreneurs in smaller rural communities, gaining access to information, markets, funding and digital skills are substantial barriers to growing a business.

The initiative formed part of the broader Women's Month focus on empowering women and recognising their contribution to local economic development. For the women of Leeu Gamka, the seminar was not only about starting or growing a business but also about creating pathways towards greater economic participation and sustainable livelihoods.



Businesswomen who keep the economic wheels turning with their small businesses.



A SEDFA representative sharing information on the opportunities available to small businesses.



Seminar participants discussing their wins and losses as small business owners.



A Local Government Community Development Worker sharing information on the South African Revenue Service with participants.

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

GCIS conducts community radio engagement on the Water Services Amendment Bill

By Vuyisile Cindi; GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Gert Sibande District Office of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with the South African Parliament Public Participation unit, conducted a community radio engagement on Ligwa FM on 20 August 2026. The engagement was led by the GCIS as part of the Local Government Thursdays programme. The engagement aimed to promote meaningful public participation in Parliament's law-making processes and create awareness among community members, particularly young people, about legislative processes that impact their daily lives.

During the programme, officials from Parliament's Public Participation unit presented information on the Water Services Amendment (WSA) Bill and outlined the legislative process through which members of the public could contribute to the development and amendment of laws. The Department of Water and Sanitation's mandate includes facilitating efficient, effective and safe water and sanitation services throughout South Africa, while supporting water services authorities in fulfilling their responsibilities. The Bill aims to improve the lives of all South Africans by ensuring delivery of safe, reliable and quality water and sanitation services across the country.

The purpose of the proposed amendments to the Water Services Act of 1997 is to:

- insert and amend certain definitions in the Act;
- provide for the registration of persons who install and operate water services works;
- establish a licensing system for municipal service-delivery mechanisms responsible for water services and provide for a Water Service Licensing Authority;
- strengthen governance and operational requirements for water boards;
- enhance compliance and enforcement provisions;
- empower authorised officials to conduct inspections of water services works and related activities;
- introduce additional offences and penalties for non-compliance; and
- provide for transitional arrangements and matters connected to them.

Ligwa FM listeners were given an opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions and provide inputs regarding the Bill. The engagement enabled citizens to make submissions that will be considered by the National Assembly during the legislative process. The interactive session demonstrated government's commitment to participatory democracy by ensuring that communities had a platform to contribute to policy development and legislative reforms aimed at improving water service delivery and sanitation services across South Africa.



Parliamentary Public Participation Officers, Ms Sibongile Sithole and Mr Atau Rahman Ibrahim Abudulai, conducting and unpacking the WSA Bill in the local language of the Gert Sibande community at Ligwa FM studios.