



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Umlazi Community Tourism Organisation advances township tourism and local economic development

By Lihle Nxumalo; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Umlazi Township Community Tourism Organisation (CTO), together with the Clermont CTO, participated in the Kasi to Kasi Tour on 28 September 2026. The initiative aimed to introduce learners to the township tourism industry and highlight opportunities available within their communities.

The programme exposed learners to local tourist attractions, businesses and community-based tourism initiatives. It also encouraged them to recognise the value of their townships as destinations rich in histories, cultures, stories and experiences.

As part of the programme, learners received information about the role of CTOs in promoting local tourism, supporting small businesses and creating opportunities for communities to participate in the tourism economy. The engagement also encouraged learners to consider tourism-related careers and entrepreneurial opportunities and highlighted the important role of young people in preserving and promoting their communities' heritage.

The Secretary of the Umlazi Township CTO, Mr Sabelo Ngema, welcomed the initiative and emphasised the importance of exposing young people to tourism opportunities at an early age.

"As the Umlazi Township CTO, we believe that our learners need to understand that tourism is not only about travelling to other places; there are also many opportunities within our own townships. Through initiatives such as the Kasi to Kasi Tour, we are able to educate young people about the tourism industry and encourage them to become ambassadors for their communities," said Mr Ngema.

The Kasi to Kasi Tour demonstrated the importance of collaboration between community tourism structures in strengthening township tourism. Through continued engagement with schools and young people, the CTOs aim to raise awareness, stimulate participation in local tourism and contribute to inclusive economic opportunities within township communities.



Left to right: Chairperson of Umlazi Township CTO, Mr Sandile Dlamini; Secretary of the Umlazi Township CTO, Mr Sabelo Ngema; and Chairperson of the Clermont CTO, Mr Chris Phili, engaging young people on township tourism.



Learners participate in educational and recreational activities at various township tourist attractions.



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

International media explore investment and industrialisation at Coega SEZ

By Thompho Mokoto and Zukiswa Mqumbisa; GCIS, Eastern Cape

International journalists based in South Africa visited the Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Gqeberha from 28 to 29 September 2026 to learn more about its contribution to industrialisation and investment.

The media familiarisation visit, involving the Foreign Correspondents Association, showcased the SEZ's role in job creation and economic growth. The programme began with a meet-and-greet dinner at the Bluewater Bay Sunrise Hotel, where the delegation engaged with stakeholders and learnt more about the Eastern Cape's investment and industrial development landscape.

The delegation toured key areas within the Coega SEZ. These included the Port of Ngqura; the Business Process Outsourcing Park in Zone 4; the manufacturing area in Zone 3, including Coega Dairy; and the chemical zone in Zone 7, including Cerebos.

The tour highlighted the SEZ's role in attracting investment, promoting localisation, supporting export competitiveness and creating jobs. The delegation also learnt about Coega's Human Capital Solutions, which supports local recruitment and skills development. At the time of the visit, local community members reportedly occupied 85% of construction jobs in the zone.

The programme concluded with a thought leadership session and question-and-answer session involving Nelson Mandela Bay Executive Mayor, Cllr Babalwa Lobishe; Coega Chief Executive Officer, Mr Themba Koza; and Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber board member, Mr Lance Petersen.

The visit gave international journalists first-hand insight into the industries, infrastructure and people contributing to the Eastern Cape's economic development and Coega's long-term industrialisation vision.



Highlights from the international media tour of the Coega SEZ.

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

GCIS equips young people to identify misinformation

By Yanga Ngcukana; GCIS, Free State

Young people learnt about identifying misinformation and assessing artificial intelligence (AI)-generated content during a Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) awareness session in Trompsburg on 22 September 2026.

The session aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and practical skills to assess online information and use digital platforms responsibly. It formed part of ongoing efforts to strengthen information literacy among young people as they turn to social media and other digital platforms for news and information.

Participants discussed how misinformation and disinformation can affect individuals, families and communities. They also explored how to identify and assess misleading, false or AI-generated content before sharing it.

Ms Babalwa Solitswayi from the GCIS encouraged young people to question information before accepting or sharing it. She emphasised the importance of checking sources, verifying facts and recognising content that may have been manipulated or generated using AI.

The National Youth Service, South African Police Service (SAPS), Office of the Premier (OTP) and the National Lotteries Commission also participated in the session. Their contributions broadened discussions on responsible digital engagement, community awareness and informed decision-making.

Sergeant Thabo Makau from the SAPS cautioned participants against sharing unverified information

online. He explained that sharing certain types of information irresponsibly could have serious consequences, including potential criminal liability. He encouraged young people to pause, verify information and consider the possible consequences before posting or forwarding content.

“By building critical thinking and information-literacy skills, one may become a more discerning consumer and responsible sharer of information,” said Sergeant Makau.

Discussions also highlighted the growing difficulty of distinguishing AI-generated photographs, videos, audio recordings and written content from authentic material. Developing the skills to assess such content can help young people make informed choices and avoid unintentionally spreading false or misleading information.

Mr Yanga Ngcukana from the GCIS highlighted the importance of equipping young people to respond to these challenges. “As digital technologies continue to evolve, empowering young people with the necessary knowledge and skills can contribute to a more informed, responsible and resilient society,” said Ngcukana.

The session provided a platform for young people to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the digital environment. It reinforced the importance of critical thinking, information literacy and responsible online behaviour in promoting informed decision-making within communities.



Mr Yanga Ngcukana directs proceedings during the awareness session.



Participants attend the awareness session in Trompsburg.



Ms Motsilisi Motaung from the OTP discusses bursaries and encourages participants to verify bursary advertisements with the office.



Sergeant Thabo Makau explains the potential consequences of sharing false information online.

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

Minister Ntshavheni leads Love Your Street campaign in Thembisa

By Robbie Senoelo; GCIS, Gauteng

Minister in The Presidency, Ms Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, led the Love Your Street service-delivery campaign in Thembisa, City of Ekurhuleni, on Wednesday, 14 October 2026.

The Presidency and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) launched the nationwide Love Your Street campaign, which has been integrated into the GCIS gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) campaign.

Launched earlier this year in Manenburg and Khayelitsha in Cape Town, the Love Your Street campaign promotes community ownership of clean-up initiatives, the repair of potholes and streetlights, the rehabilitation of parks and illegal dumping sites and the establishment of food-security gardens. The campaign also raises awareness about GBVF by transforming neglected, poorly lit and overgrown parks and open spaces identified as GBVF hotspots into clean and safe community spaces. It also educates community members about GBVF reporting mechanisms and available support services.

Another objective of the campaign is to mobilise communities, municipalities, government departments and civil society organisations to work together to keep neighbourhoods clean, promote environmental responsibility and strengthen community participation in service delivery.

Minister Ntshavheni was joined by the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Ms Lindiwe

Ntshalintshali; Executive Mayor of the City of Ekurhuleni, Cllr Nkosindiphile Xhakaza; members of the mayoral committee; councillors; government officials; and representatives of civil-society organisations. Armed with brooms and refuse bags, the participants cleaned areas around the Thembisa South Police Station and targeted illegal dumping sites identified as problem areas in the community.

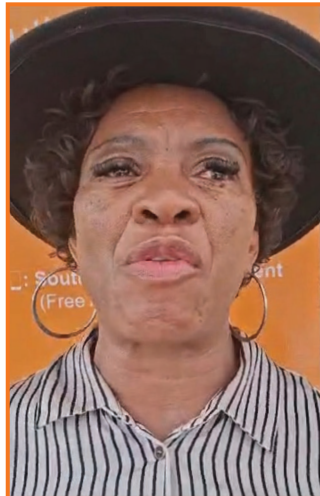
The day began with a briefing session at Thembisa South Police Station, followed by the cleaning of the open space and park behind the police station. The delegation then proceeded to Umthambeka Primary School, where Minister Ntshavheni led a tree-planting initiative. She emphasised that maintaining clean and safe communities is a shared responsibility between residents and municipalities. She highlighted the importance of clearing overgrown vegetation, ensuring adequate street lighting — including solar-powered lighting — and waiting for scheduled municipal refuse collection instead of dumping waste illegally.

Addressing the prevalence of illegal dumping in the area, the Minister reiterated that cleanliness is a collective responsibility.

“If your refuse bags are full, do not dump them illegally. Wait for the municipality’s weekly refuse-collection service. This is not only a call to the municipality; we are here to form a partnership with communities to curb illegal dumping,” she said.



Mr Nick Moela:
“This is a joint effort by all spheres of government to strengthen stakeholder relations and partnerships, promote social cohesion and national pride at street level, raise awareness about GBVF and promote safer communities through the provision of useful information.”



Ms Florence Mtakwende:
“We are very happy as a school to have visitors who recognise our efforts. They planted trees, which will make our school nice and green and provide our learners with fresh air. I am also very happy that the Minister promised to provide more trees, including fruit trees for the benefit of our learners.”



Left: Minister Ntshavheni inspects the area before the clean-up. Right: Minister Ntshavheni collects waste during the Love Your Street campaign in Thembisa.



Left and right: Photographs of the park after the Love Your Street clean-up campaign.



Left: Minister Ntshavheni plants a tree. Right: Minister Ntshavheni and Umthambeka Primary School Deputy Principal Ms Florence Mtakwende water the newly planted tree during the Love Your Street campaign in Thembisa.