



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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PRIORITY I: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Media capacity building workshop with Google SA

By Doctor Marebane; GCIS, Limpopo

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with Google South Africa and the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), held a successful capacity-building workshop at the University of Limpopo on 31 January 2026. The workshop targeted media professionals and communicators in the local municipality. The workshop offered presentations and practical exercises.

The training aimed to educate community media houses (print and radio) on how to increase their income and listenership utilising Google's new innovative tools. Among the products Google offers are a variety of tools for marketing, productivity and web management, such as Artificial Intelligence and Gemini.

Mr Lucas Ledwaba, a journalist from the Daily Maverick newspaper delivered his presentation in vernacular (Sepedi). He shared that Google assisted over 119 countries and 6 700 organisations, trained more than 2.5 million

journalists and spent over \$300 million worldwide. He shared strategies for generating income using Google tools. He further encouraged communicators to promote their mother tongue when telling stories to their audience and to regularly visit the Google website to read others' publications regularly.

The second sitting was a practical session in which Google set up a mobile learning lab outside the hall. This was a trailer equipped with digital tools that enabled the participants to engage in practical, hands-on demonstrations. Communicators were allowed to demonstrate and practice the theory learned in the first session. Mohodi FM won a hamper for being the fastest group to complete the exercise.

In her closing remarks, Ms Khanyisa Mahlawule from MDDA thanked the participants; the University of Limpopo for providing the venue free of charge and GCIS for coordinating the event. She said that the Limpopo Sepedi event reached and exceeded their expectations by a wide margin.



Community media houses and communicators during the Limpopo publisher training at the University of Limpopo.



Mr Lucas Ledwaba, a journalist from the Daily Maverick, delivered his presentation in Sepedi during the Limpopo publisher training.



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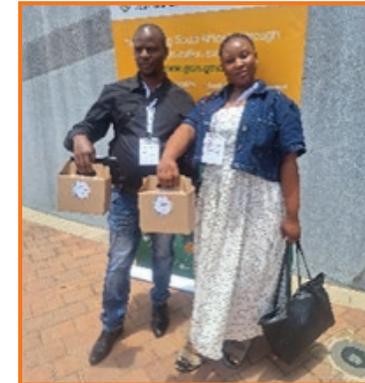
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Ms Khanyisa Mahlawule:
“I would like to thank all the participants, the University of Limpopo for providing the venue free of charge and GCIS for coordinating the event.”



Mr Patrick Morudu and Ms Mokgadi Molokomme from Mohodi FM:
“The event was informative and well-coordinated; we gained a lot of experience and wish that the government could regularly provide trainings like this.”

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

Tourism career expo for uMzinyathi District learners

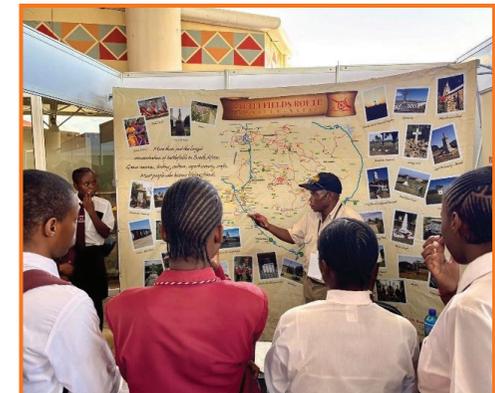
By Thandinkosi Zulu; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs successfully hosted a two-day Tourism Entrepreneurship Careers Expo at the eNcome Museum in the Umzinyathi District on 19 to 20 February 2026.

Day two of the expo, held under the Nquthu Local Municipality, successfully continued to empower learners with valuable insights about the tourism sector. The expo brought together tourism stakeholders, educators, and industry professionals who engaged directly with learners, equipping them with knowledge about the diverse opportunities available within the tourism industry.

Learners benefited from career guidance sessions, interactive exhibitions, and presentations that highlighted the importance of tourism as a driver of economic growth and job creation. The sessions helped learners understand subject choices, training opportunities, and study pathways required to pursue careers in tourism and hospitality.

The expo also provided learners with an opportunity to engage with industry professionals, allowing them to ask questions and gain a clearer understanding of workplace expectations and the skills required to succeed in the tourism sector. This exposure played a vital role in motivating learners to consider tourism as a viable and rewarding career path.



Tourism Career Expo for the Umzinyathi District, with learners at the eNcome Museum.

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

POST-SoNA GBV Activation Programme

By Thenjiwe Konono; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 13 February 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with Big Dreams Entertainment and Isibindi, hosted a post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) gender-based violence (GBV) Activation Programme at Colesberg Primary School in the Northern Cape. The purpose of the event was to gather participants' views and feedback on the 2026 SoNA while also educating learners about GBV and bullying.

The programme featured various performances by artists who performed songs and poetry addressing GBV and bullying, highlighting how these social ills negatively affect communities and children. A drama performance further illustrated the different forms of abuse, including domestic violence, child abuse, bullying at school, and peer pressure. The performers also provided information on where victims can seek assistance and explained how social workers and relevant support services can offer help to those affected.



Mr Mqweno Nqandu:

“I did not watch the whole SoNA, but from what I was able to get, my highlight is the part where the President mentioned digital IDs and licences. As someone who does not like carrying a wallet, I am very pleased with this, and I feel it will reduce a lot of theft when it comes to these items.”



IsiXhosa poet, Mr Mqweno Nqandu is rendering a poem on GBV and bullying.



The drama team showcased acts of bullying at school, domestic violence, child abuse by parents, and educated learners on how to report incidents of GBV, and various ways social workers could assist them.



Mr Nolan Pienaar, aka Nolin Devotion, an Afrikaans artist, performed a song on gender-based violence.

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

Women leaders unite to strengthen community action against GBVF

By Esmarelda Mckay; GCIS, Western Cape

Women leaders from across the community recently gathered for a focused workshop addressing the urgent challenges of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). The session created a safe and supportive space for participants to share lived experiences, exchange insights, and strengthen collective action to protect women and vulnerable groups.

The workshop emphasised the importance of awareness, education, and leadership in driving meaningful change at grassroot level. Discussions explored the social and structural factors that contribute to violence while also highlighting practical ways communities can respond more effectively. Participants worked together to identify local strategies to support survivors, improve referral networks, and promote prevention through advocacy and community engagement.

A key component of the programme was building leadership capacity among women leaders, equipping them with tools to mobilise their communities, facilitate dialogue, and collaborate with local stakeholders. The goal is to ensure that interventions are not only reactive but also proactive and sustainable.

The gathering also included a guided writing-to-heel session, during which participants used storytelling and journaling to reflect and process emotions. This quiet, personal exercise offered space for expression and healing, reinforcing the importance of mental and emotional well-being alongside community action. The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to united community-driven solutions.



The group of women participating in the work session.



The presenter, Ms Anzil Kulzen from ATKV, is giving a presentation on writing and how it heals and improves brain function.



Participants engaging and highlighting their expectations.