



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### G20 focuses on youth unemployment in the Eastern Cape

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa; GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) held its first Group of Twenty (G20) meeting from 18 to 21 February 2025 at the Nelson Mandela Bay (NMB) Metropolitan Municipality's Boardwalk Conference Centre. The Premier of the Eastern Cape (EC), Mr Oscar Mabuyane, welcomed the delegates from various parts of the world, including from the member states of Germany, India, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Netherlands, China, Japan and Brazil. South Africa is the first African country to host the G20, under the theme: "Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability".

The meeting discussions focused on solving youth unemployment and creating equal opportunities for different levels of employees; digitisation in the workplace; digital literacy; incorporation of technology into the workplace, data security and gender equality.

The Minister of the DEL, Ms Nomakhosazana Meth, said that government aimed to decrease the unemployment rate by at least 5% by 2030. Currently, South Africa's focus is on empowering young people to become artisans and equip them with skills such as plumbing, welding, carpentry and construction through its technical colleges, so that they can be self-employed and create work opportunities for others.

Delegates shared best practices on how they were addressing unemployment in their respective countries. They also expressed gratitude for the experience and the province's hospitality. Hosting the G20 meeting in the NMB Municipality is expected to contribute to the growth of the local economy.



Minister Meth during the G20 meeting at the Boardwalk Conference Centre.



Premier Mabuyane welcoming delegates to the G20 meeting held in the EC.



Delegates from different countries at the Boardwalk Conference Centre attended the G20 meeting.



government communications

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**PRIORITY 1: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.**

**Training workshop for Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District communicators**

*By Fatima Modise; GCIS, North West*

On 6 and 7 March 2025, the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Communicators’ Forum conducted a training and induction workshop in Christiana, Lekwa Teemane Local Municipality, to induct new communicators and refresh the knowledge and skills of those who have been in the system for a long time.

The training was conducted by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)’s Director for Training and Development, Mr Tiisetso Ramotse, who started by outlining the mandate of the GCIS. “Communicate to influence behavioural change, educate and ensure that all government programmes are known to the community; and coordinate, guide and lead a government-wide communication system,” he said.

He also touched on a series of topics, among them the critical principles of communication, where he emphasised that communication was not a once-off activity, but a continuous one that supported service delivery, where everyone in a democratic government was a messenger. He also emphasised that misinformation was false information deliberately intended to deceive, while disinformation was false information intended to mislead.

Communicators were urged to be vigilant, as fake news posed a danger to society and democracy; where BOTs, which are computer-controlled fake social media accounts, are often used to spread fake and misleading information.

The officials were also given techniques to use when being interviewed by the media, such as when a reporter asks about a problem, the communicator must talk about the solution, never lie to the reporter, speak clearly, avoid jargon and bureaucracy, keep cool and not be intimidated.

“It is important to strategise for anything that you intend to do. The Medium-Term Development Plan, National Communication Strategy Framework, Communicators’ Handbook and communication research are needed by communicators to develop a strategy, as failure to do so is equal to misplacement of resources. Communication protocol must always be followed,” Mr Ramotse concluded.

You FM, a privately owned radio station based in North West and also broadcasts in parts of Gauteng, joined the first day of the workshop.



Group photo of communicators who attended the training.



Officials listening to presentations during the training conducted by the GCIS.



Representatives from You FM radio station during engagements.

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### GCIS raises awareness during STI and Condom Week in the Western Cape

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

STI and Condom Week takes place annually to educate people on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the importance of using condoms. The objectives of the week are to create awareness around the spread of STIs, as well as HIV and AIDS by getting tested; and to reduce the stigma that prevents people from seeking treatment.

On 14 February 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the Avian Park Clinic (APC) Committee under the leadership of Sister Melissa Vermeulen and key role players which included the Flourish Grow Great Campaign, Fasfacts and the Association for the Physically Disabled (APD), delivered a very practical engagement with community members who visited the clinic on the day. Mr Peter Titus from the GCIS provided a broad overview on the key objectives of STI and Condom Week.

Mr Douglas De Bruyn, from an external consultancy, highlighted that adults needed be very careful about what they did and how they communicated to their children on topics of sexuality, as they emulated their parents' behaviour.

Ms Celeste Williams from Flourish, alerted the community about parental classes, which included ante- and post-natal classes that pregnant women could attend and receive advice on key topics of parenthood.

Ms Maria Oudshoorn from the APD, indicated that there was a clear link between the abuse of substances in communities and negative sexual behaviour. "Alcohol and substance abuse also contributes to the large number of our client base as an organisation that focuses on persons with disabilities," she said.

APC's Ms Zelmarie Dosmartiris, provided the community with critical information on various birth control options such as contraceptives, as well as services available for free. Ms Tammy van den Heever, a Social Worker at FasFacts, highlighted that substance and alcohol abuse were major contributors to neglect, as well as negative behaviour amongst community members. Condoms were distributed by the stakeholders to the community of Avian Park, at outlets, shops and other areas.



Ms Oudshoorn engaged with community members on the role of APD, as well as information on the link between alcohol and negative sexual behaviour.



Ms Desmartiris, a counsellor at the APC, provided information on contraceptives and the dangers of from having unprotected sex.



A team from various organisations provided information on STIs and HIV and AIDS.



Mr Titus from the GCIS motivates the public to visit the clinic regularly for tests.



**Mr Saziso Nhleko, District Chairperson of uMkhanyakude Civil Society, said:**

“As the civil society, we play an important role in identifying disadvantaged individuals. If needed, we are then referred to the relevant department, ensuring that the right information is given when visiting government offices. During public dialogues, it was noted that the issue of gender-based violence and femicide is still prevalent, therefore a men’s dialogue will be needed. The area of Mlamula also has a problem with network. Cellphones and other services dependent on connectivity are not provided in the area. As civil society, we are committed to rendering services to the people since we see them on a daily basis.”

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Social Development Minister visits uMkhanyakude District Municipality

By Jacob Mkhize; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The uMkhanyakude District Municipality Matric Class of 2024 received first position in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and third position nationally by achieving 92.8% in the National Senior Certificate examinations; while 48 schools in the district received a 100% pass rate.

To celebrate the good performance, the district was visited by Minister of Social Development, Ms Sisisi Tolashe, on 31 January 2025. Minister Tolashe visited Shayina High School in the Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality, which also received a 100% pass rate. She adopted the school and committed to provide support where possible, and assist in sourcing funding from other institutions to address the school’s biggest challenges of an aging asbestos roof and unavailability of computers.

The Minister also visited Thengani Primary School to engage with educators and encourage them to perform better, particularly those teaching in Grades R to four. “These grades are the foundation where a learner has to be equipped with all necessary skills. If a learner is nurtured at this early stage of their schooling career, we will definitely receive better Matric results in the future,” she said.

KZN Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Social Development, Ms Mbali Shinga, joined the Minister on an Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme (ICROP) held at the Mlamula Hall in Ward 15 of the uMhlabuyalingana Local Municipality. The programme aims to bring services closer to where citizens live and to ensure that all bottlenecks pertaining to social grants were sorted out efficiently. MEC Shinga assured citizens that ICROP would continue to maintain good relations with beneficiaries and provide the necessary services to communities.

During the programme, 20 learners from Mbetha Secondary School received school uniforms. Minister Tolashe acknowledged the challenges faced by recipients who received their social grants through the now liquidated Ithala Bank. She committed to continuously engage with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that the bank’s challenges are resolved and that beneficiaries can access their outstanding payments.



Minister Tolashe and uMkhanyakude District Mayor, Cllr Sphile Mdaka, at Thengani Primary School addressing the community on ICROP.



KZN government officials attending the ICROP programme.