



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Issue no. 8: March 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](mailto:nandipa@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Mthunzi Mkhungo (Acting)  
051 448 4505 or 064 545 1185  
[mthunzi@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mthunzi@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Senzeni Ngubane (Acting)  
012 473 0402 or 065 595 5203  
[senzeni@gcis.gov.za](mailto:senzeni@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

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

### Post-SoNA analysis highlights municipality's commitment to accelerated service delivery

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa; GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Deputy Executive Mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMBMM), Cllr Gary van Niekerk, participated in a post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) analysis on KQFM on 19 February 2026. During the engagement, he outlined how the metro intended to implement national government priorities at a local level.

This engagement formed part of ongoing government communication efforts aimed at ensuring communities understand how the commitments announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa would translate into practical programmes within municipalities.

Cllr van Niekerk emphasised that the municipality was aligning its strategic programmes with the priorities articulated in the President's address. These include promoting economic growth, strengthening infrastructure development, creating jobs, improving service delivery and enhancing local governance systems.

He reiterated that municipalities play a central role in converting national policy direction into tangible improvements in people's lives. According to Cllr van Niekerk, NMBM was prioritising improved infrastructure maintenance, acceleration of housing delivery and the enhancement of basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and waste management.



Cllr Gary van Niekerk during an interview with Percy Lamani on KQFM.



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](mailto:thanyani@gcis.gov.za)

**MPUMALANGA**

Hlengiwe Nhlabathi-Mokota  
013 753 2397 or 084 708 4214  
[hlengiweh@gcis.gov.za](mailto:hlengiweh@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTH WEST**

Boitumelo Mosadi  
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906  
[boitumelom@gcis.gov.za](mailto:boitumelom@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Ofentse Moeti  
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330  
[Ofentse@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Ofentse@gcis.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Geraldine Thoppas  
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200  
[Geraldine@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Geraldine@gcis.gov.za)

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

**SANDF's Project OWETHU brings essential services to Limpopo communities**

*By Netshikweta Doctrine; GCIS Limpopo*

On 17 February 2026, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) launched Project OWETHU on – a humanitarian outreach initiative aimed at delivering critical healthcare services to impoverished and underserved rural communities across Limpopo. Led by the South African Military Health Services (SAMHS), the launch took place at the Collins Chabane Community Hall ahead of the 2026 Armed Forces Day commemorations.

Ahead of the official launch, SAMHS deployed a comprehensive community outreach programme that brought integrated healthcare directly to areas with limited access to medical facilities. Multi-disciplinary teams provided a wide range of services including general healthcare, psycho-social support and veterinary services. A significant highlight of the programme was the ophthalmology service, which focused on cataract surgeries to restore patients' sight and help reduce the surgical backlog at district hospitals in the province.

The initiative aims to restore dignity, improve quality of life and strengthen the relationship between the SANDF and the communities it serves. It

also comes at a time when the province continues to grapple with several challenges, including the devastating impact of recent floods in many areas.

In her address, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Angie Motshekga, acknowledged the need to rebuild public confidence in the SANDF. "We are aware that communities are not rating the SANDF as one of the prestigious departments within government. That is why we take Project OWETHU to remote areas and amplifying our communication efforts to ensure that all South Africans are informed and interested in opportunities offered by the institution. The SANDF is a jack of all trades, and on Armed Forces Day, people will understand the full operations of the institution. We will be showcasing our skills in Thohoyandou. We are the only department that can operate on land, in the ocean and in the air," she said.

Traditional leaders and community members expressed their appreciation for the healthcare professionals, whose compassion and expertise brought much-needed relief to patients who had long struggled to access specialised medical care.



Flood victims in Limpopo receive humanitarian aid donated by Armscor.



Specialist teams performing cataract surgery during the Project OWETHU outreach at Elim Hospital.



The Surgeon-General of the SANDF uncovers the eye of a patient following a successful cataract procedure during the Project OWETHU outreach.

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

**MEC Mahlatsi brings government services to the people of Edenburg**

*By Yanga Ngcukana; GCIS, Free State*

Free State Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) for Health, Mr Monyatso Mahlatsi, led a highly successful community outreach programme in Edenburg, hosted at the Phaladi Phetlho Community Hall. Held on 19 February 2026, the programme attracted large numbers of residents and demonstrated the Free State Provincial Government commitment to delivering essential services directly to communities.

The Department of Health collaborated with key stakeholders to provide a comprehensive suite of services under one roof. These included the South African Social Security Agency, Department of Home Affairs, South African Police Service, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Kopanong Local Municipality, Xhariep District Municipality Environmental Health Services and several civil society organisations. Through this multi-sectoral partnership, residents were able to access healthcare services, social support, documentation assistance, public safety information and environmental health services.

Earlier in the day, the MEC visited Albertina Sisulu Secondary School to engage young people on health-related and broader social issues. As part of the outreach’s humanitarian efforts, the MEC donated food parcels to vulnerable community members. In addition, four beneficiaries received wheelchairs through an initiative aimed at improving access to mobility aids within the community.

Community members attended the outreach in impressive numbers, taking full advantage of the diverse services and information offered. The initiative reaffirmed government’s commitment to providing services that are accessible, convenient and centred on community needs. The outreach represents another meaningful step towards bringing services closer to the people and ensuring that South Africa remains a country that truly works for all.



The community came in large numbers to access government services and information.



MEC Mahlatsi conducted an inspection of the exhibition stalls, including the GCIS exhibition stand.



The event drew a strong turnout, with many residents seeking services and information.



MEC Mahlatsi interacted with wheelchair recipients at the community hall, with Ward Cllr Mzanele Malgas, offering assistance to residents.

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

### **SALGA National Communicators Forum strengthens responsive and developmental government communication**

*By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape*

Government communication practitioners from across the country convened on 25 February 2026 for the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) 9th National Communicators Forum. The gathering aimed to reinforce coordination, sharpen messaging and enhance the overall impact of communication across the three spheres of government.

Opening the session, SALGA Deputy President, Cllr Xola Pakati, emphasised the strategic importance of communicators in advancing developmental local government and strengthening the connection between municipalities and the communities they serve.

Delivering the keynote address, Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong, called on government communicators to deepen their role as facilitators of understanding, accountability and active citizen participation. His address centred on the theme: “Local Government Capacity: Towards a more effective and consistent communication at municipal level”.

The Deputy Minister urged communicators to thoroughly engage with the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) and translate its commitments into clear, practical and community-centred messages. “Communicators must read and unpack the SoNA so that communities understand what government has committed to and how those commitments will improve their lives. We must be honest about our

successes and equally honest about our challenges. Transparency builds trust and trust strengthens democracy,” he said.

He further emphasised the need for responsiveness to citizen concerns, especially within a dynamic and evolving political environment. He underscored the importance of reaching South Africans through their preferred platforms including community radio, digital channels, public engagements and traditional media to ensure inclusive access to government information.

The forum also received a keynote input from the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, who highlighted the importance of policy-driven and ethical communication in advancing the mandate of local government. He stressed that communication must continuously evolve based on feedback from the communities government serves.

The SALGA National Communicators Forum remains a strategic platform for strengthening professionalism, collaboration and innovation in government communication. The engagement reaffirmed that effective communication was central to promoting accountability, deepening public participation and building an informed and active citizenry. Day two of the three-day forum included a prestigious awards ceremony for those who championed communication excellence across the country.



Deputy Minister Masemola, provided strategic guidance on adopting a policy-driven, people-centred communication approach.



Deputy Minister Morolong, urged communicators to thoroughly engage with the SoNA and translate its commitments into practical, community-centred messages.