



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

MISA and UNIVEN encourage women's participation in infrastructure

By Netshikweta Doctrine; GCIS, Limpopo

On 28 August 2026, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA), in partnership with the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and leaders in the infrastructure sector, hosted a Women in Infrastructure Dialogue at the university's Agricultural Hall. The dialogue aimed to create an enabling environment that attracts, develops, retains and promotes women at every level of the engineering profession, while strengthening municipal infrastructure delivery across the country. Participants included women engineers, engineering students and industry representatives who were keen to learn about MISA's Young Graduate Programme, candidacy support initiatives, artisan development programmes, bursary opportunities, work-integrated learning, mentoring interventions and professional registration support.

Addressing participants, MISA Chief Executive Officer, Ms Mapatane Kgomo, outlined the organisation's mandate to create pathways for young women to enter and succeed within the engineering and infrastructure

environment. She further said that although women constituted more than half of South Africa's population, their participation in engineering and technical professions remained considerably lower than desired. Unfortunately, women continue to represent a minority within registered engineering professionals and technical leadership across various disciplines. Furthermore, the representation of women becomes even less at senior management, executive and specialist technical levels. MISA is encouraging women to participate in municipal programmes that build technical capacity, support infrastructure planning, facilitate projects and promote sustainable service delivery.

"Unquestionably, we are aware that by empowering women we will build a strong nation and leaders that should resuscitate municipalities out of the deterioration they are facing. We strongly believe that women can do better and that is why we are here engaging them to take part in the Infrastructure Development Programme," she added.



Ms Kgomo addressing the Women in Infrastructure Dialogue at UNIVEN.



Participants during the dialogue held at UNIVEN Agricultural Hall.



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Professor Lutendo Murulana:

"The University of Venda is leading by example, as we are among the institutions of higher learning prioritising the empowerment of women. MISA is providing financial support for initiatives that promote women's participation in infrastructure. It has funded 39 UNIVEN students through full-time bursaries, many of whom are women from disadvantaged communities. Of the supported students, 87% have been professionalised through MISA's Young Graduate Programme, enabling them to enter the infrastructure sector. However, MISA's efforts to bring more women into the sector must be supported by effective policy implementation. Implementing government policies could help address the infrastructure development backlog."



Ms Rinae Matsheketsheke:

"As a woman pursuing my master's degree, I am grateful to MISA for bringing the Women in Infrastructure Dialogue to our institution and encouraging women to participate actively in infrastructure development. Traditionally, women were denied certain career opportunities because of gender discrimination. Today, career paths are open to everyone, regardless of gender. Young women can move beyond traditional beliefs that portray men as superior in all trades. We are all equal, and a person's qualifications and skills should determine their capability at work. I encourage women, particularly university students, to seize the opportunities available to them. Let us act now."

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

Multi-stakeholder strategy strengthens efforts to prevent crime

By Vasanthi Naidoo; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Guided by the principle that prevention is better than cure, the Civilian Secretariat for Police is implementing an Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy built around six national pillars and a seventh pillar introduced in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The strategy focuses on an effective criminal justice system; early intervention to prevent crime and violence; promote safety; victim support; integrated service delivery for security, safety and violence prevention; environmental design that reduces opportunities for crime; and active public and community participation. KZN's additional pillar focuses on youth empowerment.

In support of Pillar Six – Active Public and Community Participation – the GCIS hosted an exhibition in the Marketplace section of a stakeholder engagement held at Amaoti Hall, Inanda on 21 August 2026. Participants included The Presidency, Community Policing Forums (CPFs), South African Police Service, KZN Community Safety and Liaison, Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA), Special Investigating Unit, eThekweni Municipality's Safer Cities Programme, gender-based violence and femicide forums and activists and the Democracy Development Programme. The session aimed to strengthen practical collaboration among government, civil society, community structures and law-enforcement agencies and to accelerate implementation of the strategy.



The GCIS and other departments exhibit their services at the marketplace. The Director-General of the Civilian Secretariat for Police, Mr Thulani SMIKE Sibuyi, conducting media interviews with Inanda FM and eNCA.



Mr Khule Duma from The Presidency addressing participants.



Ms Mbali Mkhize:

“We are grateful to be part of today’s dialogue on government’s crime-prevention strategy. This is important to the Democracy Development Programme because we have already begun working under Pillar Six, which focuses on public participation and active communities. We want people to understand, respect and uphold the values of the Constitution, know how democracy works and recognise the importance of participating in structures such as CPFs, neighbourhood watches and youth desks. Civil society, government and communities must work together to improve conditions on the ground, particularly by involving young people in addressing inequality, unemployment and crime. Inanda has more than 176 registered taverns and communities are deeply affected by drugs and substance abuse. We support this dialogue and hope the multi-stakeholder approach will continue to strengthen community safety and development across KwaZulu-Natal.”



Ms Talent Zwane:

“I represent PSIRA, the regulatory authority for the private security industry. I see the strategy working when communities, government and law-enforcement agencies come together to address the urgent issues facing society. For example, the Department of Social Development may need to intervene in child-headed households, while people must be able to report abuse so that justice can be served. There appears to be growing community support for reporting crime, joining CPFs and other local structures. These partnerships can help prevent crime and ensure that incidents are properly reported when they occur.”

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

Local Government Thursdays collaborates with the City of Tshwane

By Robbie Senoelo; GCIS, Gauteng

The Local Government Thursdays initiative received a significant boost when the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, conducted a community outreach at Atlyn Mall in Atteridgeville on 20 August 2026.

The initiative is an opportunity for local government messengers (mayors, members of the mayoral committees, councillors and officials) to profile and highlight municipalities' high-impact service delivery achievements. It encourages public participation and education on government service delivery and promotes awareness of the importance of integrated development plans.

The activation took a two-pronged approach that included a mall activation, where different government departments and entities conducted exhibitions, face-to-face interactions, services on wheels and distribution of information products for community members to take home. Pheli FM, a local community radio station, provided an outside-broadcast van for messengers to amplify and unpack topics such as by-law enforcement, illegal water and electricity connections, tampering and vandalism of essential infrastructure belonging to the city, illegal land invasions, billing and the city's Indigent Policy.

The GCIS was joined by different departments within the municipality, including Tshwane Metro Police, Strategic Marketing: Brand Management and Advertising, Economic Development and Spatial Planning, Finance, Energy and Electricity and Communication. Other stakeholders that participated were the Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs and Gauteng Liquor Board, National Credit Regulator, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Council for Debt Collectors and Companies Tribunal. Community members were also mobilised through loud-hailing.

While explaining the purpose of the event on Pheli FM, Mr Robbie Senoelo from the GCIS described Local Government Thursdays as a platform to highlight service delivery issues at local level. He hailed the partnership between the GCIS and the City of Tshwane and said, "Local Government Thursdays is a national initiative, but one cannot talk about local government issues without including the municipality, hence the collaboration."



Mr George Moeketsi from the GCIS mobilising community members using loud-hailing and Ms Gontse Kganyago from the City of Tshwane engaging with residents.



Community members visited various stalls during the community outreach campaign held at Atlyn Mall in Atteridgeville.



Various departments provided services on wheels at Atlyn Mall, Atteridgeville.



Ms Agnes Nkomo Somo:
“We appreciate the presence of the municipality here, especially the Finance section, because many people are struggling to pay for their services due to unemployment. We hope they will help us or provide some form of relief for struggling households.”



Ms Matlhodi Maphutha:
“From the city's side, I commend the organising team for successfully executing the campaign. It really shows that different organisations working together can achieve more, for the benefit of our communities.”

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

GCIS empowers women and youth through Milestones of Freedom campaign

By Qiqa Gqobo; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 11 August 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted the Eastern Cape leg of the Milestones of Freedom campaign at Vusumzi Landu Hall in Hankey. The event brought together learners, women entrepreneurs, government stakeholders and community members to reflect on the life and legacy of Sarah Baartman while highlighting opportunities for women and young people.

One of the key activities was the Sarah Baartman Schools Edutainment session, which used education and entertainment to engage learners on the importance of knowing and preserving history. Through performances and educational activities, learners were encouraged to understand the significance of Sarah Baartman's story and its relevance to today's society. Mr Phumza Mfenyana, Acting Head of Department at the Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture also emphasised the importance of archiving and preserving history for future generations. The programme continued with the Intergenerational Women Entrepreneurial Conversations, which provided a platform for women to discuss entrepreneurship, economic participation and opportunities available through government and other organisations. GCIS's Chief Director, Mr Ndlelantle Pinyana, highlighted the importance of the campaign and urged communities to reflect on South Africa's journey and the meaning of being a democracy.

Eastern Cape Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Ms Nonkqubela Pieters, delivered the keynote address and emphasised the importance of creating opportunities that allowed women to participate meaningfully in the economy. The programme also included a panel discussion involving women in business and representatives from Planning and Economic Development, CET College, Department of Social Development, the Halalisana Township Incubator and Sakhe Family Care Development Centre. The stakeholders shared information about programmes, services and opportunities available to women and communities, allowing participants to better understand where they can access support.

Adding a personal perspective to the discussions, women trailblazers including Ms Bernadette Swartz, owner and founder of a clothing brand known as Be Original, encouraged women to begin their entrepreneurial journeys despite resource challenges. She encouraged women to start with what they have at their disposal, noting that support could be found along the way and that taking the first step was important.

The programme encouraged participants to value their history while taking advantage of opportunities that could contribute to empowerment and community development.



Mr Pinyana engaging with women and young people during the Milestones of Freedom Campaign launch. MEC Pieters delivering the keynote address.



The launch of the Milestones of Freedom campaign was a success with robust and educational discussions.

