



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

GCIS facilitates G20 youth engagement dialogue in Qwaqwa

By Mmapeneng Lekitlane; GCIS, Free State

On 22 May 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted the Group of Twenty (G20) youth engagement dialogue at the Maluti Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, Kwetlisonq campus. The dialogue was facilitated in partnership with the Maluti TVET College, Agape Foundation for Community Development and University of the Free State Qwaqwa campus. The objective of the engagement was to promote networking among young people, open space for learning and discuss how the socio-economic policies can contribute to the G20 government objectives and vision.

The engagement discussed topics on youth empowerment, digital transformation, education, and the future of work. The dialogue plays an essential role at the local government level with the aim to bridge the gap between young people and global decision-makers to ensure that their voices and perspectives are heard. The GCIS emphasised that solutions in government are rooted in the spirit of Ubuntu, solidarity, peace, equality, justice, and fairness. While these have not always found traction in a polarised world, it is clear the world is in search of new ways to deal with pressing challenges.



G20 youth engagement dialogue held in Qwaqwa.



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Ms Karabo Mampa:

"I think the G20 youth engagement dialogue was beneficial. We learnt a whole lot of new things that I feel like we do not normally get knowledge of regularly."



Ms Puso Qwabe:

"This dialogue brought a lot of information, especially looking at the fact that most of us did not have any idea about the G20 and what it is all about, as well as how South Africans will benefit from it."

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

Ministerial outreach programme calls for strengthened collaboration between the three spheres of government

By Jacob Mkhize; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 23 May 2025, the District Development Model (DDM) champion of the UMkhanyakude District Municipality - Minister Sisili Tolashe undertook a ministerial outreach programme at Umhlabuyalingana-Manguzi Multi-Purpose Hall. The aim of the outreach was to bring government services closer to the people and monitor if the DDM programmes in the area are run successfully.

Stakeholders in attendance included the Departments of Home Affairs, Health, Transport, Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and its entities. The Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), the South African Police Service (SAPS), National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and financial institutions also participated in the outreach.

The District Mayor of Umkhanyakude Cllr Sphile Mdaka honoured the programme and was joined by district executives Inkosi Mabhudu of the Tembe Traditional House and Inkosi Khulezweni Nxumalo representing the Mabasa Traditional House. During her public address, Minister Tolashe stated that the outreach was not a ceremonial event but a way to showcase how DDM works as it aims to unify all three spheres of government. She said government can effectively bring services to people if the

three spheres of government can work together. The minister applauded interventions made in the education sector in UMkhanyakude, as the district was now ranked amongst the top three districts in the country.

Minister Tolashe raised concern about the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) directed at women and children. She made a powerful call to action, urging communities to stand together in the fight against these entrenched social ills. Tolashe reiterated that it's not only the responsibility of Social Development and SAPS to end GBVF but everyone has a role to play.

Through the programme, at least 1000 people were reached. Civil society organisations submitted contributions to the minister to ensure that service delivery is not compromised in the district. Issues raised included requests for improved road infrastructure and providing water access for people with disabilities. The organisations also called for the Home Affairs Department in Manguzi and other government buildings in the district to be restructured to accommodate people with disabilities.



Residents of uMkhanyakude attending the ministerial outreach programme.



The minister engaging the media and reflecting on the programme overview.



Minister Tolashe visiting the Department of Home Affairs service delivery point.



Mr Sphiwe Manzini (representing District Disability Sector):

"As the disability sector, we are thankful for government strides in migrating the SASSA card to the beneficiary's bank of his/her own choice. This brings about dignity, as one can withdraw money as and when wished. We plead with government to bring water access closer to the homes of the disabled people as they cannot walk long distances in need of water. We also need proper road infrastructure to accommodate disabled people on wheelchairs. We further need government to consider the needs of people on wheelchairs in government facilities and buildings that are not disability friendly. I then plead for the community and government to love us and consider us as human."



Ms Thandiwe Ngubane (representing elderly people):

"We are thankful for the older person grant we are receiving however, we are experiencing gender-based violence. These are scourges we suffer from our own grandchildren, who demand these grants when they are under the influence of drugs. More to that, our own daughters leave their children behind in search of jobs and then takes the SASSA card with them. The grant that we receive we don't enjoy since we had to put food on the table instead of taking care of ourselves. I then plead with the government to continue support and monitor the luncheon club since it brings older people together to share experiences and distress."

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

2025 Child Protection Week observed in style

By Nkuna Eunice; (GCIS), Limpopo and Constable Rikhotso V.F (SAPS Namakgale Police Station)

On 1 June 2025, the Namakgale AFM Christian Devine Covenant commemorated its third annual promotion of the National Child Protection Week Campaign in a unique way. Under the theme “Working together in ending violence against children,” the Sunday School children were dressed up like the professionals they aspired to be when they grow up. The purpose of these outfits was to demonstrate to the parents that there is a bright future requiring the parents, the church, the police, social development and other relevant departments to work together in guaranteeing that children are safeguarded, provided for and led to a better future.

The children quoted poetry on their well-being: Such as "It should have been you Mom" which is a poem about a little girl who blames her mother for not recognising that her uncle was sexually abusing her until it became a norm. Another poem delivered was "Dear Dad" which is a letter from a youngster who expresses her sorrow over how her father abandoned her after separating with her mother causing her agony. Protecting children's rights, dignity and safety is a legal and moral obligation as stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005).

Adhering to the current administration theme, “A nation that works for all,” government continues to foster partnerships with all stakeholders including churches. Constable Rikhotso who spearheads annual awareness services in the church, was joined by Constable Molamodi who are both stationed

at Namakgale police station. Constable Rikhotso encouraged the congregation to take charge in taking care of every child regardless of whether the child is theirs or not. She also requested that the parents take charge in ensuring that they protect their children until they reach their dreams and become what they dream of. She said, “It is your responsibility to ensure that these children grow up well until they reach their dreams, until they carry the same task of taking care of their own children. The future is bright and it can only be achieved if we all work together as government (police officers) and parents to protect our children. We will look back on this time and be glad we did.”

Child Protection Week attempts to draw attention to concerns affecting children's lives and this event surely achieved that goal.

Around 89 children participated in this paramount activity which encouraged parents and caregivers to recommit to building a child-friendly South Africa free from violence and harm. In her closing remarks Constable Rikhotso expressed that she loves her job especially on days where her duty goes beyond just enforcing the law but to foster a safer, better community for children and all citizens, upholding her oath to serve and protect. “Government urges citizens to report any form of child abuse or neglect to the nearest police station or social services. Alternatively, call SAPS Crime Stop on: 08600 10111, GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428 or Childline 116.”



Aspiring future engineers representing the mining sector at the commemoration of Child Protection Week.



Future Doctors representing different faculties in the Health Sector.



Security Cluster was also represented by future police officers and soldiers.



The sky is the limit for these future pilots, first aid officers and captains in the airline industry.



With their Sunday School Principal Ms Ivy Pilusa, these are the future teachers and principals in the education sector.



Pastors are also represented in our future leaders to assist in the moral regeneration of the country.



Ms Sophy Ledwaba said:
“I want to thank all the service providers who took part in today’s event, and the information they shared is going to be useful to our community.”



Ms Rebecca Tlala said:
“The event was good, and we’ve learnt many things. We are going to share all the information leaflets we have acquired here with other community members.”

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

Marapyane village receives the long-awaited Thusong Service Centre

By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 23 May 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, local traditional leadership and various government departments conducted a service delivery outreach in Marapyane village. The outreach was coupled with an official opening of the newly established Thusong Service Centre which will assist the community of Marapyane and surrounding areas to access government services closer to them.

Various public and private entities inclusive of the South African Police Service, South African Revenue Service, Departments of Health, Home Affairs, Social Development, South African Social Security Agency and banking institutions were among stakeholders who rendered services at the event. Attendees managed to undergo health screening, register for grants and attend to their tax-related matters.

The Department of Agriculture provided information on available programmes in the agricultural sector and the Department of Employment and Labour registered work seekers in the employment database to enable access to future job opportunities and training programmes. Political principals as well as the local traditional leadership officially opened the established Thusong facility.

Community members of Marapyane and surrounding areas were delighted with the opening of the centre indicating relief from spending money on travel expenses to access government services.



Official opening of the Marapyane Thusong Service Centre.