



**MY DISTRICT TODAY**



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**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**

Ndlelantle Pinyana  
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
[ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

**FREE STATE**

Lineo Sehlabaka  
051 448 4504 or 082 773 9445  
[lineo@gcis.co.za](mailto:lineo@gcis.co.za)

**GAUTENG**

Peter Gumede  
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

**KWAZULU-NATAL**

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

**OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.**

**SoNA live broadcast at Sukuma Comprehensive School**

*By Mlungisi Dlamini, GCIS: KwaZulu-Natal*



Sukuma Comprehensive High School learners during the SoNA live viewing.



Gugu Memela educating learners about the importance of participating in elections.

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the uMgungundlovu and Msunduzi municipalities provided the Sukuma Comprehensive High School learners with a full live viewing of the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) presented by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 7 February 2019. It was for the first time that school learners from Sukuma High school took part in the live viewing of the SoNA.

The event was led by Mayor Themba Njilo of Msunduzi Local Municipality, ward councillor, Caiphaz Ndawonde and councillor Gugu Dladla from uMgungundlovu District Municipality. Addressing the students after the President's speech, Mayor Njilo raised concerns about substance and drug abuse among learners, which affect their school work. He also encouraged learners to remove themselves from bad crowds so that they can become better citizens. He further outlined the SoNA and said, "The President has put emphasis on improving education system to counteract the state of technology development in the global world. He also talked about closing taverns in the school neighbourhoods. You have an absolute responsibility to help the government realise the country's vision towards better education."

More than 200 learners attended the live SoNA broadcast. An invitation was extended to the Independent Electoral Commission and the uMphithi Theatre who used the opportunity to educate the learners about the importance of voting and the upcoming general elections, and the country celebrating 25 years of democracy and freedom. Speaking on behalf of the school, the Deputy Principal, Phumzile Ntuli, said that government's decision to bring the SoNA live viewing to schools would improve the way learners understand the mandate of government and its programmes.



**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**

Jerry Nkosi  
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295  
[Jerry@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Jerry@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**

Marius Nagel  
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179  
[mariusn@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mariusn@gcis.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Geraldine Thopps  
021 697 0145 or 081 281 2200  
[Geraldine@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Geraldine@gcis.gov.za)



**Luyanda Mbele said:**

“The President spoke about how he is going to help the country change the education system. I like what he said about post-matric opportunities because the country is facing a big challenge when it comes to unemployment and the economy.”



**Zanele Gasela said:**

“It was my first time watching SoNA. I used to think it was something to do with only one political party. Today, I have learnt that it is important to follow what is happening in Parliament because they talk about issues that involve us like education.”



**Siphosenkosi Duma said:**

“My interest in SoNA has grown. I think watching it with other learners has helped us to concentrate. I had heard of SoNA before but I never thought it was this important. I liked it when the President said government would focus on closing shebeens next to schools.”

**OUTCOME 5 : A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.**

**Youth exposed to skills development programmes**

*By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng*



**Sifiso Masondo said:**

“Due to high unemployment among the youth, one needs to know more about improving oneself with skills that will make one employable or able to create employment through entrepreneurship initiatives.”



**Ayanda Mazibuko said:**

“I needed to get information on how to improve my skills so as to be employable because jobs are scarce. One needs to know what opportunities are on offer to improve skills required in the job market.”



**Youth visiting exhibition stalls at the event.**



**Various institutions showcasing their products and services during the career exhibition.**

Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the Duduza Development Centre and the Department of Labour hosted a career exhibition for unemployed youth of Duduza and surrounding areas on 7 February 2019. The aim of the exhibition was to empower and develop communities through information on social skills training, social programmes and income generating opportunities.

The programme provided young people with an opportunity to interact with various institutions of higher education and training, industry sector education and training authorities (SETAs), businesses and youth development organisations. Institutions that exhibited were the GCIS, Department of Labour, Ekurhuleni East TVET College, Department of Defence, Gauteng Enterprise Propeller, Office of Consumer Affairs, National Credit Regulator, Credit Ombudsman, Lulaway, Harabee and Godisang.

The unemployed youth and graduates also had an opportunity to register their CVs on the jobseekers’ database of the Department of Labour, Lulaway and Harambee. Lulaway and Harambee are the agents for Gauteng provincial government’s Tshepo One Million Programme. Their database are used by the municipality, provincial government and private sector to assist unemployed youth and graduates by placing them in youth work readiness placement programmes and other skills development and related entrepreneurship development programmes.

**OUTCOME 9: A RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.**

**Government intervenes at Ngonyameni village**

*By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape*



Member of the SAPS addressing the community members.



A community member engaging the stakeholders.



Community and government stakeholders during the dialogue.

Following the murder of two women (Who were burnt to death) at Ngonyameni village on allegations of witchcraft, the South African Police Service (SAPS) in EmaXesibeni, working with the Ngonyameni Traditional Authority and government stakeholders led a multi-stakeholder intervention on 6 February 2019. The initiative was aimed at unearthing the root cause of this heinous crime. President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his State of the Nation Address, spoke about the violent abuse and brutal violence meted against women and children in the country. He called upon men and the society at large to work with government to end the scourge of violence against women and children.

The multi-stakeholder intervention aimed to calm the situation down and also try and ascertain circumstances that led to the brutal killing of those two women. The community pledged to work with government in trying to ensure what happened before does not happen again. “We need you to come together and work with the police to keep peace and stability in this community. We rely heavily on you to lead us to the arrest of those who transgressed. This is why as the police we are busy launching the traditional policing, so that policing is closer to rural areas,” said the cluster commander, Brigadier Mtukushe during his keynote address to the community.

Community members raised other issues of concern in line with service delivery and government departments committed to have an evaluation meeting and consider issues raised and report back to the community.

## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

### GCIS facilitates school admission for a learner

By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape



Makati Dweba and his family.

A pastor, who is one of the stakeholders of Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in Breede Valley District Municipality, requested intervention from government, after a sister of a 12-year-old boy, Makati Dweba, could not find placement for the boy in primary schools in Breede Valley.

On 15 February 2019, a GCIS official sent an email to the Director of the Education Management in the area, who indicated that he would deal with the situation. The case was then delegated to the circuit manager, who was of great help. After providing the details to the circuit manager, he contacted a principal of a local school, which was visited by the sister, and in a very professional manner, indicated that no child should be out of school.

The principal stated that she was not aware of the situation and that the child should be placed with immediate effect. After almost a month, Makati will be at school again. The sister said that she appreciated the GCIS's intervention.