



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Youth engage on South Africa's SADC leadership role

By Nontuthuko Ngubane; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tertiary Roundtable discussion in the King Cetshwayo Municipality on 24 July 2026.

The dialogue, held at the Moses Kotane Research Institute Training Centre in the Mfolozi Local Municipality, created a platform for young people to engage with stakeholders, share their views and access information on government programmes and opportunities. It also provided an opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of South Africa's leadership role within the SADC.

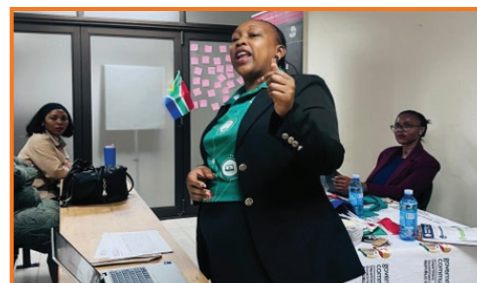
South Africa has been serving as the interim Chair of the SADC since November 2025, following Madagascar's withdrawal. The country will assume the full SADC Chairship in August 2026 for a one-year term ending in August 2027.

The dialogue brought together young people and representatives from government departments and organisations, including the Independent Electoral Commission, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Legal Aid South Africa, Department of Agriculture, Mfolozi Local Municipality's Local Economic Development unit, Zenzele Kanye Nathi and EzikaNyambose Youth Development.

The young people welcomed the dialogue and called for similar engagements to be held regularly. The discussions highlighted the value of empowering young people with relevant information, resources and opportunities that can support their development and participation in public life.



A Legal Aid representative addresses young people during the SADC Dialogue at the Moses Kotane Research Institute in the Mfolozi Thusong Centre.



GCIS official, Ms Nontuthuko Ngubane addresses participants during the SADC Dialogue at the Moses Kotane Research Institute in the Mfolozi Thusong Centre.



Young people and officials reading *Inkezo Yolwazi* during the SADC Dialogue.



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

Youth dialogue explores South Africa's role in SADC

By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 21 July 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and a community-based youth organisation, hosted a youth dialogue on the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The dialogue focused on South Africa's SADC Chairship and aimed to assist young people understand the regional organisation's mandate, objectives, and opportunities presented by South Africa's leadership. Participants learnt about SADC's role in promoting regional cooperation, economic development, peace and stability among member states.

Young people participated in discussions on regional integration, governance, and the role of youth in advancing the SADC agenda. They asked questions and shared their views on how South Africa's Chairship could contribute to development, economic cooperation and opportunities for them and their communities.

Representatives from GCIS, the IEC and the community-based youth organisation encouraged young people to be actively involved in regional and national affairs. The IEC also explained the importance of voting and encouraged young people to participate in the 2026 Local Government Elections.

Participants received information material on government programmes and services, as well as South Africa's role in regional and continental structures.

The dialogue formed part of GCIS's ongoing public education and information efforts aimed at improving young people's understanding of government and regional matters. It also provided a platform for young people to engage on issues that affect their communities and the wider SADC region.



Mr Sello Kgarebyaye:

"Coming here has benefitted me a lot. I knew very little about SADC, but I have gained a better understanding of what it is. I now know that SADC is a regional organisation in which South Africa participates."



Ms Temoso Masombuka:

"Today, we participated in a session where we discussed SADC. I learnt a lot about the organisation and its role in the region. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the session."

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

Love Your Street campaign promotes active citizenship in Leeu Gamka

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

The three-day Milestones of Freedom programme in Prince Albert concluded on 24 July 2026, with a Love Your Street campaign in Leeu Gamka. Led by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with the Western Cape Government Community Development Workers (CDWs) Programme, the campaign brought together government stakeholders and community members to clean a street near Leeu Gamka Primary School.

Leeu Gamka Ward Cllr, Mr Kiewiet Baadjies, led the clean-up, which included ward committee members, Prince Albert Municipality law enforcement officers, the Community Work Programme (CWP), Independent Development Trust and members of the local community.

During the activation, the team also identified additional areas in Leeu Gamka for future Love Your Street activities. The initiative aims to encourage residents to take pride in their surroundings and work with local stakeholders to keep their neighbourhoods clean and well maintained.

The initiative formed part of the broader Milestones of Freedom programme, which focused on bringing government closer to communities, promoting active citizenship and encouraging residents to play a role in improving their neighbourhoods.

The Leeu Gamka activation showed how partnerships between government, local structures and community members can support practical efforts to keep neighbourhoods clean and encourage greater community development.



Cllr Baadjies, ward committee members, CDWs, Prince Albert law enforcement officers, CWP participants and community members work together during the Love Your Street Campaign in Leeu Gamka.



Community members work together during the Love Your Street campaign clean-up in Leeu Gamka.



Community members work together to maintain their neighbourhood during the clean-up in Leeu Gamka.



Community members remove dirt and litter along the fence at the local hostel.

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

GCIS and University of Venda engage students on South Africa's SADC Chairship

By Netshikweta Doctrine; GCIS, Limpopo

On 21 July 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the University of Venda, hosted a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Chairship Seminar at the university's Student Parliament.

The seminar improved public understanding of South Africa's SADC Chairship and created a platform for students and lecturers to engage on the country's role in advancing regional integration, peace, economic development and cooperation among SADC member states.

Students and lecturers participated in discussions on the opportunities presented by South Africa's Chairship, including promoting regional collaboration, industrialisation and sustainable socio-economic development across the region.

Addressing participants, GCIS Limpopo Provincial Director, Mr Thanyani Ravhura, said South Africa's Chairship provided an opportunity to strengthen peace and stability among SADC member states, accelerate regional industrialisation and improve the economic well-being of citizens through sustainable development.

During his State of the Nation Address (SoNA), President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasised South Africa's commitment to regional cooperation, stating: "Through our position in the African Union and the

Southern African Development Community, we are advancing regional integration, peace and stability to ensure that, as Africans, we continue working together to meet the high standards of developed nations."

South Africa was elected incoming Chair of SADC at the 45th Ordinary SADC Summit held in Madagascar in August 2025. Following Madagascar's withdrawal, South Africa served as interim Chair and used this period to prepare for its one-year rotational Chairship, which began in August 2026.

South Africa will host the 46th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, on 16 and 17 August 2026. The summit will mark the beginning of South Africa's one-year term as Chair of SADC under the theme: "Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialisation through Infrastructure Development, Agricultural and Critical Minerals Transformation in Pursuit of a Just World".

The seminar provided students and lecturers with an opportunity to engage on issues affecting the region and gain a better understanding of SADC and South Africa's role in promoting regional development and cooperation.



GCIS Limpopo Provincial Director, Mr Thanyani Ravhura, presents on South Africa's SADC Chairship during the seminar at the University of Venda.

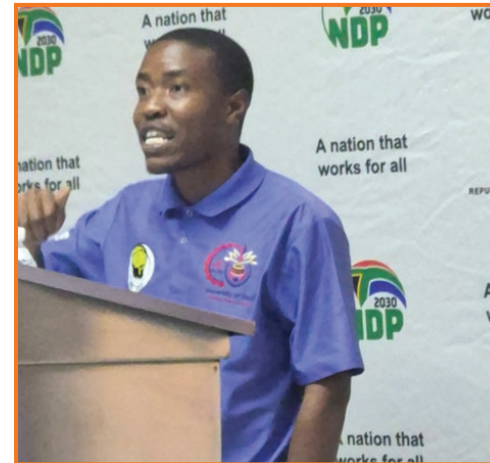


Participants attend the seminar on South Africa's SADC Chairship at the University of Venda.



Mr Rabelani Mamphogoro:

“South Africa is known for promoting the spirit of Ubuntu and working together, as reflected in our Constitution. I believe South Africa's Chairship of SADC provides an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation, promote economic integration, and advance peace and security across the region. South Africa can also use its leadership to promote human rights and democratic values. Strong and principled leadership will help SADC achieve its objectives and improve the lives of people across the region.”



Mr Ndlovu Sibusiso:

“As students, we are hopeful that South Africa's previous achievements as SADC Chair will continue. We expect South Africa to lead by example and practise what the region promotes, especially when it comes to democracy and the rule of law, which are important for maintaining peace and stability across the region. We are encouraged that several meetings have already taken place, covering different sectors, including academia, youth and women. This shows that South Africa's Chairship aims to ensure that no sector is left behind.”