



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

TVET college students engage on issues of security around campus

By Phiwokuhle Zokufa and Sthokozisi Tshazi; GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System held a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tertiary Roundtable discussion at King Sabata Dalidyebo (KSD) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College in Mthatha on 22 July 2026. The roundtable aimed to promote the upcoming SADC Conference and the role of South Africa in the regional body, as it assumes chairship for a 12-month period from August 2026.

Among the six identified priority focus areas by government during its chairship, the discussions also focused on security and gender equality in institutions of higher learning. The KSD Mthatha campus is faced with rising alcohol and drug abuse among students and also cases of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) which go unreported, as some victims are afraid to come forward.

The dialogue opened a platform for students to engage with different role players present on the day, which included the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Department of Social Development (DSD).

SAPS emphasised the importance of reporting GBVF, regardless of how minor it may seem and stressed that both men and women could be victims; victims must not feel ashamed or afraid to report abuse as it is the first step towards protection, justice and ending violence in communities.

The programme also included the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to encourage students to take part in democratic processes by registering to vote.

"The programme was informative as students on this campus, we experience bullies and abuse even from lecturers. It is comforting to know that one can report such anonymously," said Ms Nomfundo Buthelezi, a student at the college. She further stated that voter education was important to enable young people to participate in democracy.

Students were given an opportunity to ask questions and engage with the stakeholders on issues affecting their community.



An SAPS officer presenting the police's role in assisting KSD students.



Ms Funeka Kumalo from the DSD presenting her department's role and how they assist people who visit their office.



An official from IEC explains the importance of registering and checking if students were registered.



government
communications

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Ms Nomfundo Buthelezi:
“The programme was very useful; we learnt, like how to report if you are being bullied by lecturers.”



Mr Laruna Thobanjane:
“The programme was informative; it taught us a lot about the importance of voting and reporting GBVF, which is the first step towards protection.”

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

Milestones of Freedom campaign in full swing in provinces

By Moleboheng Maseme; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 6 August 2026, the Government Communication and Information System and the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality launched the Milestones of Freedom (MOF) campaign in Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality under the theme: "Honouring the past, Delivering the future". The programme commemorates significant milestones on the road to South Africa's democratic journey.

The milestones were commemorated under key events such as commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, 50th anniversary of the youth uprisings, 60th anniversary of the District Six forced removals and the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Women's March. These commemorations aim to reinforce government's commitment to intensify and accelerate service delivery, while underscoring the journey towards a more equitable and inclusive future.

The launch brought together representatives from the South African Police Service (SAPS), Joe Morolong and Ga-Segonyana Local Municipalities, Commission for Gender Equality, Lesedi Disability Projects, Fortunate Foundation, Marang CIC, Baitlami CIC, Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. A panel

discussion reflected on the noteworthy progress made in achieving these milestones, with panel members discussing successes to date and highlighting the work that still needs to be done.

The Executive Mayor of John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Cllr Queen Mogatle-Thoane, during her keynote address noted that commemoration of the MOF required citizens to reflect on the journey to liberation.

"South Africa's journey to democracy was built on great sacrifice. Many people paid the ultimate price so that we could live in freedom today. This freedom was secured and strengthened through the adoption of South Africa's Constitution in 1996, ushering in a new era of constitutionalism and restoring the dignity of millions of our people," she said.

The launch was preceded by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Langeberg War of Resistance Monument site to honour and pay tribute to Kgosi Luka Jantjie, Makgolokwe Jantjie and John Taolo Galeshewe.



The MOF Launch also featured an intergenerational dialogue.



Executive Mayor Mogatle-Thoane delivering the keynote address during the Northern Cape leg of the MOF campaign.



Panel members were representatives from persons with disabilities, civil society, youth and women's structures.



Wreath-laying at the Langeberg War of Resistance Monument site in honour of fallen heroes.

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

Unveiling of Star FM's state-of-the-art studios

By Thulaganyo Gaserotse; GCIS, North West

The Government Communication and Information System supported the Media Development Diversity Agency (MDDA) on 7 August 2026, at the official unveiling of Star FM's state-of-the-art digital studios in Klerksdorp. Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong, was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of the City of Matlosana, Cllr Fikile Mahlophe. The new digital studios mark the beginning of an exciting chapter for Star FM by strengthening its capacity to produce quality content, broaden community participation and continue serving as a powerful platform for local voices.

"Community radio stations such as Star FM provide platforms through which dialogue between government and communities can be amplified. The diversity of Star FM's broadcast languages is one of its greatest strengths. The station preserves cultural identities and ensures that the voices of women are amplified, especially as we commemorate the historic Women's March of 1956," said Deputy Minister Morolong.

MDDA Board Chairperson, Mr Philly Moilwa, congratulated Star FM's Board, management, employees, volunteers and listeners on this significant milestone. He also expressed the agency's appreciation

to Deputy Minister Morolong, local and district municipalities and all stakeholders whose support contributed to the station's continued growth and development.

Star FM Chairperson, Ms Ouma Seobi, reflected on the station's remarkable 22-year journey. She recalled a petition signed by residents of surrounding communities, including Jouberton, in support of the station's broadcasting licence. From its humble beginnings in a garage and later operating from a small space at Jouberton Hospital, Star FM has grown into an established community broadcaster with its own premises in Klerksdorp.

The upgraded studio will enhance the station's broadcasting and production capabilities, improve the quality of its content and create a more efficient environment for presenters, volunteers and producers. Through this upgrade, the station will be better positioned to amplify local voices, promote community participation and respond to the information needs of its listeners.



Deputy Minister Morolong officially opening the new Star FM studios.



Deputy Minister Morolong, Mr Moilwa, Cllr Mahlophe and Ms Seobi at the new studios.

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

Deputy Minister Morolong and GCIS delegation meet with Mpumalanga PEC to strengthen government communication

By Todani Livhuwani; GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 22 July 2026, Deputy Minister in The Presidency Kenny Morolong led a high-level engagement with the Mpumalanga Provincial Executive Council (PEC) aimed at strengthening collaboration between national and provincial governments to improve service delivery and enhance the lives of South Africans. The engagement brought together representatives from the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Brand SA and the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA). Discussions focused on strengthening government communication, promoting a coordinated national message and advancing nation-brand initiatives.

The meeting formed part of government's ongoing programme to align communication efforts across all spheres of government to ensure that citizens received accurate, timely and consistent information on government programmes and services. It also sought to support community media as a vital platform for public engagement and information-sharing. Following the engagement, the delegation visited Voice of Hope FM, where government communicators engaged listeners on issues relating to effective government communication, nation-branding, active citizen participation and the Government Communication Policy (GCP).

Brand SA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Neville Matjie, highlighted the role of the entity in positioning the country positively and discussed opportunities for collaboration with the Mpumalanga Provincial Government to market the province's tourism potential and investment opportunities. GCIS Acting Director-General, Mr Sandile Nene, addressed the growing threat of misinformation and disinformation, emphasising the importance of credible information sources and media literacy in protecting communities from false narratives that can undermine development and social cohesion.

The radio engagement also underscored the important role of community media in connecting government with citizens, providing platforms for public dialogue and ensuring that citizens were informed about government programmes and opportunities. The GCIS officials encouraged residents to participate actively in democratic processes, engage with government initiatives and use trusted information platforms to stay informed on developments affecting communities. The Mpumalanga visit reflects government's commitment to building stronger partnerships across all spheres of government, strengthening communication efforts and ensuring that citizens remained at the centre of development and service delivery programmes.



Deputy Minister Morolong during the Mpumalanga EXCO engagement discussing among other things, the GCP.



Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Mandla Ndlovu and EXCO members; Provincial and Local Liaison Chief Director: Mr Ndlela Pinyana with the GCIS's Mpumalanga Provincial Office Director: Ms Hlengiwe Hlabathi-Mokota. Far right: Mr Sandile Nene at Voice of Hope FM.