



MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 14: May 2025

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

FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893
yolisa@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

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

Kariega Massacre victims remembered

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa and Khoboso Lebenya; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 21 March 2025, Deputy President Paul Mashatile, led South Africa's Human Rights Day commemoration at the Derrick Ferreira Stadium in Kariega, (formerly Uitenhage), Nelson Mandela Bay (NMB) Metro Municipality. Human Rights Day in South Africa honours the people who lost their lives during the struggle for liberation. On 21 March 1960, security branch police killed 69 people who were protesting peacefully in Sharpeville. On the same date in 1985, members of the security branch killed 35 people and wounded 27, after a funeral of one of six people killed by the same police branch on 17 March 1985 in Kariega. The Human Rights Day commemoration was an opportunity for attendees to reflect on and remember the victims of 21 March 1985.

Commemorated under the theme "Deepening a culture of social justice and human rights", the Deputy President delivered a keynote address in front of a fully packed marquee. He emphasised renewed commitment to inclusive growth, job creation, poverty reduction and building a capable, ethical and

developmental state. This important commemoration was preceded by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Langa Massacre Memorial Site and the handover of a Multi-Purpose Sport Facility at James Ndulula Primary School.

Accompanying the Deputy President were the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Gayton McKenzie; Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi; Minister of Social Development, Ms Sisisi Tolashe; Eastern Cape (EC) Premier, Mr Oscar Mabuyane; EC Member of the Executive Council for Sports, Arts and Culture, Ms Sibulele Ngongo; NMB Metro Executive Mayor, Clr Babalwa Lobishe and other senior government leaders and officials.

Government departments, entities and the private sector formed part of the event and brought much needed services and information on-site to assist members of the community.



Officials from the Government Communication and Information System disseminating information at the Human Rights Day event.



Deputy President Mashatile and Premier Mabuyane during the wreath-laying ceremony of the Langa Massacre victims.



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

MPUMALANGA

Poppy Maluka (Acting)
013 753 2397 or 071 606 3998
poppy@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za



Minister McKenzie during the handover of the Multi-Purpose Sports Centre at James Ndulula Primary School.



Communities came in numbers to commemorate Human Rights Day in Kariega.



Phumelela Danster, Grade 12 learner at Solomon Mahlangu High School:

“Human Rights Day is important in our country, as it gives us an opportunity to reflect and remember those who contributed to the freedom and rights that we are enjoying today. I would like to encourage my peers to practise human rights with the responsibilities that they come with.”



Amthandile Matebese, Grade 12 learner at Solomon Mahlangu High School:

“Human Rights Day reminds us of the struggles that our forefathers endured, and we appreciate their contribution because we have the right to education at schools of our choice.”

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

Public Protector opens new satellite office in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality

By Zwanga Matsila; GCIS, Mpumalanga



Ms Johanna Motaung:
 “I am happy about the opening of the PPSA office. It makes us feel safe knowing that we do not have to spend a lot of money to go to the office to report cases because people take advantage of elderly people. Now we have a protector at our doorstep.”

On 4 April 2025, the Public Protector South Africa (PPSA), Adv Kholeka Gcaleka, opened a satellite office at KwaMhlanga Magistrates Office in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, where she also released finalised investigation reports. This is an initiative of the PPSA to bring services closer to communities in the broader KwaNdebele area.

The move forms part of a broader strategy by the PPSA to ensure that remote communities have access to services. Currently, the PPSA has only one provincial office in Nelspruit, approximately 300 kilometres from KwaMhlanga. The newly established satellite office will provide services to the surrounding communities of Siyabuswa, Moloto, Ekukhanyeni, Moteti, Pieterskraal and others. Its proximity to these communities will save them time and money when lodging complaints with the PPSA. The Public Protector Act of 1994, requires the PPSA to account quarterly to the public on the release of finalised investigations. The investigation reports focus mainly on irregular appointments, abuse of power and unethical conduct by Members of the Executive, delays in service delivery and maladministration and malfeasance in public institutions.

During the 2024/25 financial year, the PPSA reported the finalisation of 7 672 cases that required investigation and intervention. Of these, 3 328 were finalised through investigations in the financial year that ended on 31 March 2025. Adv Gcaleka also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, Kgosi Thabo Seathlolo Rapulana.

The PPSA launched a self-service portal which enables the public to lodge their complaints and to access progress made on any complaints using smartphones or other electronic devices through the internet. The self-service link is <https://cma.pprotect.org>.

To accommodate communities without internet access, the PPSA launched a call-back which enables the public to send a message for free to call centre agents, who will then call them back. The call-back number is 083 274 4124.

Detailed investigative reports can be accessed on the PPSA website: www.pprotect.org.



Ms Leah Ntombela:
 “I just want to thank the PPSA for opening a satellite office, although it will only operate two days a week, which is better than travelling to Pretoria to report a case. It was sad when the Siyabuswa office was closed. It is great news indeed. I am also happy about the call-back number, which really closes the gap. It does not matter if you have money or not, you will be given a chance to register a complaint.”



Opening of the KwaMhlanga PPSA satellite office, media briefing and signing of the MoU.



Officials, traditional leaders and community members attending the opening of the satellite office at KwaMhlanga District Magistrates Court.

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



Ms Nomvula Mhlari:
 “GBVF and drug abuse are prevalent in South Africa and in particular, Limpopo, which is a worrying phenomenon.”



Mr Mpho Mangena:
 “The event was long overdue and was very informative and urged all men to lead by example.”

Men take a stand against gender-based violence and drug abuse

By Doctor Marebane; GCIS, Limpopo

The call for men to fight the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) and drug abuse gained momentum in the Capricorn District Municipality, Limpopo, when men stood up and said, “Enough is enough.” The men in the district met and debated issues related to GBVF, HIV and Aids, sexually transmitted infections, drug abuse and the role of men in society. The event, held on 30 April 2025, was organised by the Government Communication and Information Service (GCIS) in partnership with the departments of Transport and Community Safety (Idtcs), Correctional Services (DCS), Social Development, South African Police Service, Limpopo Chaplaincy, Mashashane Taxi Rank, Father A Nation and other faith-based denominations.

The event aimed to bring men from all walks of life together and find an amicable solution to the scourge of GBVF and drug abuse. Topics such as crime, 100 days of GBVF Challenge, men’s vulnerability, responsibilities and their legacy in society.

In his opening address, Mr Mantaboge Mangoale from the DCS, said that because men were created in the image of God and were bearers of strength, love and responsibility, they should lead by example. “A man’s purpose should

be to lead with wisdom and compassion, protect his family and community and serve and uplift others.” He also shared that true masculinity uplifted and did not oppress. He further urged men to stand against all forms of violence and educate and transform communities. “I urge you to live healthy lives and promote HIV testing and safe behaviour,” he said.

Mr Albert Masingi from the Limpopo Chaplaincy, raised a concern regarding the high crime rate and drug abuse in and around the Mashashane policing area. He cited incidents where women and children were brutally raped or killed. “I urge you to join men’s forums and assist in the fight against GBVF and drug abuse in this beautiful village.”

His sentiments were shared by Ms Nomvula Mhlari from the Idtcs, who said that GBVF and drug abuse were prevalent in South Africa, and in particular Limpopo, which was a worrying phenomenon. “This devastating monster destroys the nation and undermines the gains of our hard-earned freedom. How can we develop the country and celebrate that we are free when women and children cannot move freely in the country? It is high time that all sectors join hands with the community and other progressive forces that seek a safe and free South Africa,” she concluded.



A call to men to fight the scourge of GBVF and drug abuse by saying, “Enough is enough.”



Men came in their numbers to support the call to fight the scourge of GBVF and drug abuse.

PRIORITY I: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

First phase of Shongweni Precinct demonstrates business confidence in KZN

By Vasanthi Naidoo; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Westown Square Mall was officially opened with much fanfare on 27 March 2025, by eThekweni Mayor, Cllr Cyril Xaba; KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Human Settlements and Transport, Mr Siboniso Duma; His Royal Highness Inkosi Bhekamanganga Shoji; Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Fundamentum Development Company, Mr Carlos Correia; Stafnutti Stocks; architects and ward councillors.

Around 1 200 people from the communities of Shongweni, KwaNdengezi, Tshelimnyama, Dassenhoek, Cliffdale and Hammarsdale were employed during construction of the mall. Four hundred and fifty-one permanent vacancies were advertised by the mall; 27 local companies were empowered, of which 21 were 100% Black-owned, two were 100% Black women-owned, two were less than 50% Black

women-owned and two were owned by military veterans. Hundreds of young people benefitted from construction skills development and training through the Westown Training Academy, established by the Westown Foundation and Stafanutti Stocks Academy. Fundamentum Development Company CEO, Mr Correia, said that the development was a vote of business confidence by the business community in Durban and KZN.

Cllr Xaba said, "This project underlines the importance of collaboration among all social partners. It is only when we work together that we can build an inclusive economy and address the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality." He thanked the eThekweni Municipality Catalytic Projects unit for their part in ensuring that the project came to fruition.



Official opening of the mall by Cllr Xaba; CEO Correia; MEC Duma; Mr Mike Mabuyakhulu; Inkosi Shoji; City Manager, Mr Musa Mbhele; former Thekwini Mayor, Mr Siphon Kaunda; representatives from Stefanutti Stocks and architects from MDS Architecture and Boogertman and Partners Architects.



A musical performance by the St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls contributed to the carnival atmosphere at the mall.



City Manager, Mr Mbhele was interviewed on Radio 702. Other media houses present included SAFM, Lotus FM, SABC TV, East Coast Radio, Inanda FM and various print media.