



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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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

Nandipa Sondati-Thawa (Acting)
043 722 2609 or 072 611 3990
nandipa@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Mthunzi Mkhungo (Acting)
051 448 4505 or 064 545 1185
mthunzi@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Senzeni Ngubane (Acting)
012 473 0402 or 065 595 5203
senzeni@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.

Child Protection Month activation in Rustenburg

By Lilly Mohlosana; GCIS, North West

In commemorating Child Protection Month, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with key stakeholders including the Department of Social Development (DSD), Moses Kotane Local Municipality, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and Mafisa FM at Rustenburg Mall on 8 May 2026.

Child Protection Month, observed in May, increases awareness and interventions to uphold children's rights and tackle the social ills confronting them. This year, the focus was on the increasing levels of teenage pregnancy; Section 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996; and laws that protect the rights of children. These laws reaffirm the state's obligation to protect children's rights and ensure their well-being and development.

During an on-air interview – Ms Thilivhali Matinyane, a Social Worker – explained that according to South African laws, a child under the age of

16 cannot give sexual consent as they are underage and that constitutes statutory rape. She stressed that community members needed to work together to ensure that children's lives were protected.

Ms Berlina Lekgethwane, Head of Communication in the municipality, said that it was important for all stakeholders to work together, as the fight against child abuse required a multi-stakeholder approach.



Ms Berlina Lekgethwane:

"It is important that all stakeholders work together, as the fight against child abuse requires a multi-stakeholder approach."



Ms Matinyane:

"We all need to work together to protect our children."



Ms Thandi Ngakantsi from the DSD during the Child Protection Month mall activation.



Ms Lilly Mohlosana handing out Child Protection Month posters during the mall activation.



The GCIS was joined by Mafisa FM, DSD, IEC and the Moses Kotane Local Municipality at Rustenburg Mall.



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

Hlengiwe Nhlabathi-Mokota
013 753 2397 or 084 708 4214
hlengiweh@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

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

District workshop ignites Elections Communication Strategy

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

In a decisive move to bolster public engagement ahead of the 2026 Local Government Elections (LGEs), the Breede Valley Municipality in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), convened a high-level Communication Strategic Planning session with representatives from municipalities across the district on 16 April 2026.

Hosted at the scenic Nekkies Resort, the workshop brought together communication professionals and Community Development Workers (CDWs) under one roof to chart a unified path forward. The session focused on developing a coordinated, impactful Communication Plan to ensure that communities were well-informed and actively engaged in the upcoming LGEs.

Key objectives of the workshop included crafting a cohesive district-wide Communication Strategy, aligning messaging across municipalities and strengthening public participation efforts. Delegates also exchanged valuable insights, shared best practices and lessons learnt from previous electoral processes to enhance efficiency and reach.

This initiative marks a major step in supporting the IEC to deliver consistent, transparent and effective communication; while strengthening the commitment of all stakeholders to use municipal platforms to amplify accurate IEC messaging.



Mr Peter Titus, GCIS Regional Communication Coordinator and lead facilitator of the Cape Winelands District Election Communication Workshop.



Team IEC was also present at the workshop and active participation during the session ensured a geared-up Communication Strategy.



CDWs in the Cape Winelands also actively took part in the communication strategising session.



Mr Michael Ntulini ensured key inputs from the IEC in the Cape Winelands.

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

Hanover community hosts Men’s Forum

By Thenjiwe Konono; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 8 May 2026, the Government Communication and Information System partnered with the departments of Social Development (DSD), Health (DoH), Correctional Services, South African Social Security Agency, Local Football Association, District Men’s Forum, Civil Society Forum, Community Policing Forum and various churches, to host a stakeholder engagement in Hanover aimed at inducting and equipping the newly launched Hanover Men’s Forum.

During the engagement, stakeholders presented programmes within their respective departments that the forum can collaborate with to address the social ills affecting their community, such as substance and alcohol abuse; especially dagga and tik as major contributors to gender-based violence. High unemployment levels were also identified as a contributing factor, as many men experienced stress and frustration due to their inability to provide for their families. Concerns were further raised regarding teenage pregnancy among Grade 6 and 7 learners; increasing school dropout rates and challenges affecting young people in the community. The DoH also educated attendees on men’s mental health, depression, HIV and TB awareness, while encouraging them to use healthcare services and adhere to their treatment schedules.

The programme concluded with the development of an action plan focusing on mentorship, dialogue and skills development initiatives aimed at empowering young boys and promoting positive male role models within the community.



Mr Michael Mntwana introduces members of the District Men’s Forum.



The DSD presented their programmes to the attendees and how the department could assist the Men’s Forum deal with the social ills in Hanover.




Rev. Moral Regena Williams spoke on the root causes of their social challenges and how, as a church, they can support and collaborate with the Men’s Forum and departments to solve some of the challenges.



Discussions among men, stakeholders and members of the forum on how they can collaborate to assist each other.



Mr Henry Biko, Head of the DSD, made closing remarks after participating in the men’s discussion.



Mr Sibusiso Khuluse:

“What I have learnt from the presentations by IEC and the Public Protector is that as youth we need to be responsible for improving the state of our country’s democratic processes and report any suspected illegal acts you come across when visiting public offices for services.”



Mr Ntokozi Maseko:

“Today we had an opportunity to engage with IEC and Public Protector SA, and what I have learnt is that I have a right to vote as per the Constitution; and we must be responsible enough and be hungry for knowledge. It is all up to the youth to change the state of our country.”

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

GCIS partners with NGO to commemorate 30 years of the Constitution

By Moloko Segale; GCIS, Gauteng

As part of Freedom Month activities and celebration of 30 years of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) joined by Basic Package of Support (BPS) – a non-governmental organisation – hosted the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Public Protector South Africa (PPSA) to conduct a Peer Connect information session with youth from Orange Farm and Poortjie, City of Johannesburg on 21 April 2026.

The session focused on active citizenship, encouraging young people to take advantage of opportunities by becoming engaged members of their communities. Presentations were aligned to Chapters 2 and 9 of the Constitution, unpacking the Bill of Rights and the role of state institutions supporting constitutional democracy. The event aimed to deepen constitutional awareness and promote a culture of active and informed citizenry among the youth.

The young people who attended the session were empowered with information on their rights, responsibilities and the mechanisms available to hold government accountable. The IEC also shared voter education ahead of the upcoming Local Government Elections, while partners highlighted support services and opportunities available to young people in Region G.



Mr Titus Sebesho from the PPSA and Ms Lindiwe Radebe from IEC engage with young people during the presentations.



Mr Sizwe Morajane from BPS facilitating breakaway group presentations among the attendees.