



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:

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

John Taolo Gaetsewe affected by flooding

By Moleboheng Maseme; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 20 May 2026, severe flooding affected the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality after persistent rainfall during the month of May. According to the South African Weather Service, the heavy rains caused widespread devastation across local municipalities, disrupting basic services, damaging homes, roads and infrastructure and claiming three lives.

In response, the district convened the Joint Operating Coordinating Committee (JOC) to assess the impact of the flooding and coordinate relief measures. The committee included government departments, municipalities and civil society organisations that responded to assist the affected communities.

“This emergency unfolds during Child Protection Month 2026, a period dedicated to reinforcing the constitutional imperative enshrined in Section 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996; that every child has the right to be protected from neglect, abuse, exploitation and all

forms of harm. The department is aware that this disaster intensifies risks to children, including disruption to education, exposure to neglect and food insecurity,” said the Department of Social Development.

Government has activated coordinated disaster-response measures to provide relief and restore normality. The South African National Defence Force deployed an Oryx helicopter to deliver food parcels to areas that were inaccessible by road. Humanitarian support was provided by Gift of the Givers, the Red Cross and the Department of Social Development in partnership with government and municipalities.

Communities were urged to follow safety precautions, avoid crossing swollen rivers and flooded roads and also exercise extreme caution when travelling.



Gift of the Givers provides humanitarian relief.



Flood damage to roads in the district.



A residential property submerged in floodwater.



government communications

Department: Government Communication and Information System
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PRIORITY 3: BUILD A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Basic Education and Home Affairs outreach at Cloetesville High School

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

On 22 April 2026, Basic Education Minister, Ms Siviwe Gwarube, and Home Affairs Minister, Mr Leon Schreiber, conducted a joint service delivery outreach at Cloetesville High School in Stellenbosch.

The initiative formed part of a collaboration between the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Home Affairs was aimed at improving learners' access to essential government services. It also included an identity document distribution drive and the opening of a Home Affairs service point at a local Capitec branch in Stellenbosch.

Highlights of the outreach included the following:

Smart ID issuance:

Matric learners were issued Smart ID cards, which are essential for examinations, applications to higher education institutions and employment opportunities.

Technology support for educators:

In partnership with MTN Group, laptops valued at over R100 000 were handed over to teachers to strengthen digital learning and teaching capacity.

Promoting digital transformation:

Minister Schreiber emphasised the need to modernise Home Affairs systems to reduce service interruptions, improve efficiency and strengthen the protection of the National Population Register.

Minister Gwarube highlighted the importance of equipping learners with the tools to succeed academically and beyond, while Minister Schreiber underscored the need for reliable and secure digital systems. As part of his visit, Minister Schreiber also engaged with his alma mater, Stellenbosch University, reinforcing the link between education and civic services during a local community radio interview at MFM.

The outreach concluded with the handing over of identity documents to elderly community members in Stellenbosch, as well as the opening of a Home Affairs digital application point at the local Capitec branch in Eikestad Mall. The initiative demonstrated government's commitment to integrated service delivery and direct community engagement, while helping learners to prepare for future opportunities and addressing local service delivery challenges at a local level.



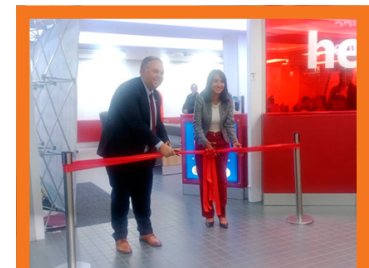
The Acting Director of Education in the Cape Winelands District welcomes dignitaries and learners to the event.



Minister Gwarube encouraged young people to persevere and not give up on their dreams.



The Mayor of Stellenbosch also received the new barcoded identity document.



Minister Schreiber and Capitec's Head of Corporate Relations opened the Home Affairs application point at Capitec in Eikestad Mall, Stellenbosch.



Ms Pertunia Mphosi:

“Freedom Month teaches us that every South African has rights that are enshrined in the Constitution. I have learnt not to look down on others who may have beliefs different from mine, and to report those who discriminate against others based on culture, religion and language.”



Ms Nthabeleng Lethoba:

“I learnt a lot today from the CRL about how important it is to celebrate my culture and embrace others because we are a diverse country. That is what freedom is all about. The Constitution protects everyone who experiences discrimination because of their choices, and that’s why the CRL Rights Commission exists as a Chapter 9 Institution.”

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

Kokosi residents learn about constitutional rights during Freedom Month session
By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

To commemorate Freedom Month and the 30th anniversary of South Africa’s Constitution, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), together with the Ithemba Labantu Development Centre and Community Development Workers (CDWs), hosted an information-sharing session at Kokosi, Fochville, on 21 April 2026.

The session aimed to educate attendees about the significance of Freedom Month and how the Constitution protects democracy and the rights of all citizens. The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL) also took part; outlining the services it offers to protect communities against discrimination based on culture, religion and language. Attendees were encouraged to take pride in

their own cultural identity while embracing the diversity of others. Dr Portia Tsanwani from the CRL said: “As a Chapter 9 institution, our work seeks to foster peace, national unity and tolerance, while advising on legislation, investigating complaints and promoting diversity.”

She added that the CRL promotes unity in diversity and encourages communities to report violations of their rights.

GCIS explained the meaning of Freedom Month – a reflection on the rights and freedoms gained through democracy – and how the Constitution protects every citizen. The event formed part of broader Freedom Month activities marking 30 years of constitutional democracy in South Africa.



Ms Tshidi Mokoka from GCIS, explains the significance of Freedom Month and 30 years of the Constitution, while Dr Portia Tsanwani from the CRL Rights Commission, shares information about the services the commission provides.



Mr Joseph Phake, and Mr Alex Fihla, engage with officials during the Freedom Month information session.

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

Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies assesses the impact of the Broadband Digital Migration Programme in Limpopo

By Doctor Marebane, Maria Ramoshaba and Thanyani Netshikweta; GCIS, Limpopo

The Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies, led by Chairperson Khusela Sangoni-Diko, conducted a three-day oversight visit to Limpopo Province from 28 to 30 April 2026 to assess the implementation of communication, broadcasting and digital connectivity programmes.

The oversight visit formed part of Parliament’s constitutional mandate to monitor the work of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies and its entities. The committee visited the Waterberg, Capricorn and Vhembe District municipalities and engaged with municipalities; government entities; public broadcasters; community media institutions; ICT implementing agencies and programme beneficiaries. The focus was on the implementation of ICT strategies, broadband rollout under the SA Connect programme, Broadcasting Digital Migration (BDM), the sustainability of community media, digital skills development and the operational status of public communication institutions.

The committee visited households that had benefitted from the BDM programme in all three districts. Beneficiaries said the set-top boxes had been successfully installed and were functioning effectively, enabling access to digital television services. Some households also indicated that they no longer had to pay monthly television subscription fees.

Among the sites visited was the Sibasa Post Office, where management was commended for maintaining high standards of housekeeping and controls.

In the community media sector, Mokopane FM presented a relatively stable operating environment and compliance with governing legislation. The station has a staff complement of 20 and plans to acquire land in Mogalakwena for future infrastructure development. It also confirmed receiving more than R2.5 million in support from the Media Development and Diversity Agency over the past three years.

To assess progress in connectivity, the committee visited Limpopo Connexion to monitor the rollout of broadband infrastructure. The entity has received approximately R2 billion in funding. At the University of Limpopo, the committee visited the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa CoLab, which offers digital skills development and training in basic computing. The CoLab was highlighted as an important intervention in advancing digital inclusion and youth empowerment.

The committee noted the positive progress in digital migration, broadband connectivity and ICT skills development in Limpopo. However, it also raised concerns about financial accountability, governance instability and the sustainability of some community media institutions and publicly funded entities.

The committee called for enhanced collaboration between government entities, municipalities, post offices and community media platforms to improve communication outreach and advance digital inclusion across the province.



Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies, Ms Khusela Sangoni-Diko (in blue), and Deputy Chair of Chairpersons, Mr Hassani Ngobeni (in black), during an oversight meeting at the Waterberg District Municipal Chambers.



The Portfolio Committee at the Manavhela Tribal Council during a visit to assess progress with set-top box installation in the area.



Members of the Portfolio Committee during a visit to the Sibasa Post Office.



CEO of Limpopo Connexion, Ms Rhoda Ledwaba, briefs the committee on the work of the entity.



One of the studios at Mokopane FM, where Deputy Chairperson, Mr Imran Subrathie was prepared to address stakeholders on the purpose of the visit.