



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Issue no. 21: June 2026

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PRIORITY I: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Kruger National Park celebrates 100 years of existence

Todani Livhuwani; GCIS, Mpumalanga.

On 30 May 2026, the iconic Kruger National Park (KNP) officially celebrated 100 years – marking a century of conservation excellence and biodiversity protection in South Africa. The milestone event brought together key government leaders and stakeholders from the environmental and tourism sectors to commemorate this historic achievement. The programme was officiated by Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Mr Willie Aucamp alongside Deputy Minister, Ms Bernice Swarts; Minister of Tourism, Ms Patricia de Lille; and Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Mandla Ndlovu. The dignitaries led the celebrations and collectively cut the commemorative centenary cake; symbolising unity, collaboration and a shared commitment to conservation.

Over the past 100 years, KNP has become a global benchmark for biodiversity preservation, wildlife protection and sustainable environmental

management. Delivering the keynote address, Minister Aucamp highlighted that the centenary celebrations aimed to showcase South Africa's leadership in protected area management, recognise the contributions of local communities, rangers and conservationists while promoting sustainable tourism and environmental stewardship.

The Minister emphasised that KNP continued to play a vital role in protecting wildlife, supporting livelihoods and contributing significantly to South Africa's economy through tourism. The ceremony also featured reflections on the park's achievements, ongoing challenges and future priorities. Stakeholders reaffirmed the importance of strengthening conservation efforts while ensuring that surrounding communities benefitted meaningfully from the park's resources and tourism opportunities.



Premier Ndlovu and Minister Aucamp during the official launch of 100-year celebrations at KNP's Nombolo Mdluli Conference Centre, Skukuza Camp.



Minister Aucamp unveils the 100 years of the KNP Centenary plaque with various stakeholders and community representatives.



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As the park embarks on its next century, government leaders reiterated their commitment to safeguarding this national heritage for future generations. The centenary celebrations serve not only as a moment of reflection but also as a platform to advance sustainable development, environmental protection and inclusive economic growth.

The celebrations underscore South Africa's enduring commitment to environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation; positioning the park as a cornerstone of the country's natural heritage and global tourism appeal.



Tourism Minister, Ms Patricia De Lille:

"We are here tonight to commemorate the 100th centenary of Kruger National Park and to honour the generations of rangers, scientists and communities who protected the park; and now we must preserve it for future generations, as this is an iconic tourism establishment known throughout the world and we will continue to market it to boost our economy."

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

GCIS hosts successful public education programme in Rouxville, Free State

By Yanga Ngcukana; GCIS, Free State

On 25 May 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) successfully hosted a public education and awareness programme in Rouxville under the Mohokare Local Municipality, focusing on the commemoration of 30 years of South Africa's Constitution.

The programme formed part of ongoing efforts to educate communities about the country's democratic journey while also promoting dialogue on critical social issues affecting its citizens. Central to the discussions were the milestones achieved in advancing democracy, as well as reflections on the progress and remaining challenges in addressing gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

A range of key stakeholders participated in the engagement, including the Department of Health (DoH), Department of Correctional Services (DCS), South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Office of the Premier. Non-governmental organisations such as Women to Women, Ikageng Disability and Iketseseng Luncheon Club represented civil society.

The GCIS, as the host of the programme, guided discussions on the advancements made possible by the Constitution over the past 30 years. The presentation highlighted key milestones of freedom and democracy, encouraging community members to appreciate the gains made while remaining committed to strengthening democratic values and institutions.

Each stakeholder contributed to the dialogue by addressing issues relevant to their respective sectors. The SAPS focused on child-related crimes, raising awareness about the safety of children and providing practical safety tips to community members. The DoH addressed critical issues such as child abuse, GBVF and the dangers of substance abuse among the youth – highlighting the importance of prevention and early intervention.

The DCS provided insight into the challenges surrounding children in conflict with the law, as well as issues relating to minor children within the correctional system. Their presentation emphasised the need for rehabilitation and support systems to reintegrate affected individuals back into society.



The Rouxville community attended the programme in numbers to listen to the various speakers.



Stakeholders from various departments were there to share information with the community.



A community member commenting on the 30 years of the Constitution presentation.

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

Government takes services to Western Cape communities during Child Protection Month

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

On 28 May 2026, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness and the Western Cape Liquor Authority, conducted a rotational community activation in Graceland and Prince Valley, Beaufort West. The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to bring essential government services directly to communities and ensure that residents have easier access to information and support.

Residents were able to engage directly with officials and access various services without travelling long distances. Information and assistance were provided on employment opportunities, social services, voter registration and electoral matters, legal support, youth development programmes, community safety and municipal services. The activation highlighted government's commitment to ensuring that services were accessible to all citizens, particularly those living in outlying and underserved areas.

In addition to service delivery, the outreach also focused on raising awareness about Child Protection Month. Officials and stakeholders engaged with community members on the importance of protecting children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Residents were encouraged to report concerns and work together to create safer environments where children could thrive and reach their full potential.

The rotational activation was well received by residents, who welcomed the opportunity to access multiple government services on their doorstep. Such initiatives continue to strengthen the relationship between government and communities while promoting active citizenship, public participation and improved access to essential services.



Activation set up by different departments in Prince Valley.



Legal Aid South Africa providing free services and advice to community members.



Department of Social Development officials engaging with the community on Child Protection Month.



Local Beaufort West community accessing services.

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

GCIS educates Mfolozi residents on the importance of the Constitution

By Nontuthuko Ngubane; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Mobile clinics were some of the services provided during the public education event held at Mzingazi Community Hall.

On Monday, 25 May 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) hosted a successful public education programme commemorating 30 years of the South African Constitution and 50 years since the 1976 youth uprising, at Mzingazi Hall under the Mfolozi Local Municipality.

Different stakeholders, community members, government departments, youth formations and civil society organisations, were present at the event.

progress made since 1994, while also acknowledging the challenges that remain in ensuring inclusive development, youth empowerment and active citizen participation. Through educational discussions and community outreach activities, participants were encouraged to deepen their understanding of constitutional rights and responsibilities. The Mayor of Mfolozi, Cllr Xolani Bhengu, spoke about the importance of understanding the Constitution, especially for the youth.

GCIS reiterated the importance of continued public education initiatives aimed at strengthening constitutional awareness, promoting social cohesion and inspiring young people to actively contribute to the development of the country. KZN GCIS Provincial Director, Ms Ndala Mngadi, spoke about the importance of protecting citizens' rights and knowing each person's responsibilities. The success of the programme reflects the collective commitment of South Africans to preserving the democratic gains of the past 30 years and ensuring that the legacy of generations continues to inspire future generations. GCIS remains committed to fostering informed and active citizenship through sustained communication and public engagement programmes across the country.

The programme served as an important platform to reflect on South Africa's journey towards democracy; honour the sacrifices made by the youth of 1976; and reaffirm the constitutional values of human dignity, equality, freedom, accountability and social justice. The commemoration highlighted the significance of the Constitution as the cornerstone of democratic governance and nation-building. It also recognised the pivotal role played by the youth of 1976 in advancing the struggle for liberation and laying the foundation for a free and democratic South Africa.

The engagements provided an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on



GCIS giving information to citizens in attendance.



Mayor Bhengu addressing the community on the importance of young people knowing and understanding the Constitution.



Ms Mngadi addressing the community during the public education event.



Mzingazi Community Hall was packed for the public education session by GCIS.



Ms Mngadi conducting an interview with 1KZN.