



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

Nomhle Sibanyoni (Acting)
011 331 0164 or 076 249 6853
nomhle@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.

Learners empowered on misinformation and disinformation

By Phoka Mofokeng; GCIS, Free State

On 22 September 2026, the Government Communication and Information System in collaboration with the AGAPE Foundation for Community Development, conducted a public education session on cybersecurity and online safety. The session focused on Grade 12 learners from Mmathabo Secondary School (MSS) in Qholahwe village. The session aimed to equip learners with knowledge and practical skills to identify and respond to cyber threats including cyberbullying, phishing, online scams, identity theft, sextortion and the spread of misinformation. The session also informed learners about the provisions of the Cybercrimes Act of 2020 and the potential legal consequences of irresponsible online behaviour.

The South African Police Service provided information on how cybercrime incidents can be reported and investigated, while cautioning learners against sharing personal information and explicit content online. The Department of

Basic Education emphasised the importance of responsible digital citizenship and highlighted how learners' online conduct could have an impact on their future opportunities. The AGAPE Foundation for Community Development shared information on support services available to victims of cyberbullying and online exploitation. Learners were also provided with practical guidance on creating strong passwords, managing privacy settings, identifying fake news and using social media platforms safely and responsibly.

Learners were encouraged to practise good cyber hygiene, report cyber incidents and play an active role as ambassadors for online safety in their schools and communities. The session reinforced the importance of equipping young people with the knowledge and skills required to navigate the digital environment safely, responsibly and confidently.



Mr Pheello Mollo from Agape Foundation shared practical tips on password safety, privacy settings, verification of information and support services.



Grade 12 learners from MSS attending the public education on mis/disinformation.



A Grade 12 learner sharing his knowledge regarding online safety and the use of social media.



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

Gaynor Marshall-Simons (Acting)
011 331 0164 or 082 870 9805
gaynor@gcis.gov.za



Ms Lemohang Kele:

"The session has taught us as teenagers to be responsible, as we are about to further our studies at higher learning institutions and to be wary of scammers out there who are looking for our personal details to commit crime and us as learners to be wary of bogus colleges."



Mr Motlatsi Motlokoa:

"We learned to use social media wisely and be safe, use social media for information and keep abreast of the latest developments in the country."

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

DoJ&CD introduces services to Central Karoo communities during Public Service Week

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

Residents across the Central Karoo received direct access to legal and government services during a week-long service delivery outreach held from 14 to 18 September 2026. The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) and took the Access to Justice and Wills Week Programme to Murraysburg, Nelspoort, Klaarstroom, Prince Albert and Beaufort West.

Officials from the Western Cape (WC) Master of the High Court assisted residents with queries relating to deceased estates, outstanding estate matters and the importance of drafting a valid will. Legal Aid South Africa provided guidance on a range of legal matters and assisted community members understand the process of preparing a will. In the Prince Albert Municipality, housing officials engaged residents on generational housing challenges, title deeds and properties that remained registered in the names of deceased family members, as those unresolved matters could prevent families from legally transferring or securing ownership of their homes.

The Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa shared voter education information with communities in Prince Albert and Beaufort West, highlighting the importance of informed and active participation in democratic processes. In Beaufort West, the outreach formed part of a week-long Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Programme led by Ilitha Labantu. Founded in 1989 by women's rights activist Ms Mandisa Monakali, the organisation has a long history of supporting women and children affected by violence while promoting dignity, justice and community empowerment.

The South African Police Service and the WC Government Community Development Workers Programme also participated in the outreach. By bringing several departments and organisations together, the initiative enabled residents, particularly those in smaller and rural communities, to receive information, raise concerns and access services closer to where they lived.



The outreach team in Prince Albert ready to assist residents.



The WC Master's Office representative explaining deceased estates and registering a death in Murraysburg.



An attorney from Ilitha Labantu sharing court processes with the community of Beaufort West.



Mr Hoorn from the DoJ&CD sharing court processes and what services can be accessed.



Ms Thandile Retyu:

“The programme was excellent and I gained a lot of valuable information. For instance, the DoA's process for applying for garden seeds and business resources. Legal Aid also informed people this week that they will be drafting wills for free from 14 to 18 September.”

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

Thusong Service Centres in line with the DPSA's Public Service Month pillars

By Thenjiwe Konono; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 16 September 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), collaborated on an initiative with various role players. These included the Independent Electoral Commission, ABET Higher Education and Training, South African Social Services Agency (SASSA), Umsobomvu Local Municipality, Legal Aid South Africa, departments of Employment and Labour; Agriculture (DoA); Social Development and Home Affairs. Together, they facilitated a service delivery outreach as part of a week-long programme held from 14 to 18 September 2026 in Pixley ka Seme District. The outreach was coordinated by the GCIS District Office as part of the Milestones of Freedom Campaign, the Thusong Service Centre programme and Public Service Month; with the aim to bring government services and information closer to communities.

Cllr Vincent Haram welcomed community members and encouraged them to use the services available at the Thusong Service Centre. The Umsobomvu Local Municipality provided information on its Indigent Policy, while Legal Aid South Africa informed residents about its services and offered assistance with the drafting of wills at no cost. The DoA also shared information on opportunities available to community members, including free starter packs for backyard vegetable gardens and funding opportunities for farmers. The initiative strengthened collaboration between government institutions and communities, enabling residents to access information and services while learning about opportunities available to them.



Residents came in numbers to use government services at the Thusong Service Centre.



Cllr Haram welcomed participants who attended the programme.



Representatives from SASSA presented types of services that they render to the public.

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

MEC Zolile Williams convenes MuniMEC Forum in KuGompo City

By Thlomphe Mokoto; GCIS, Eastern Cape

Eastern Cape Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Mr Zolile Williams, convened a Provincial Political MuniMEC Forum at KuGompo City from 1 to 2 September 2026. The forum brought together provincial and local government leaders; among them MECs, Executive Mayors, Mayors, Municipal Managers, Chief Financial Officers, Directors of Infrastructure, Water Board Chief Executive Officers and senior officials from multiple departments.

The strategic intergovernmental forum focused on addressing service delivery challenges facing municipalities. It also aimed to strengthen cooperation between the three spheres of government and key sector departments such as Water and Sanitation, Energy, Housing, Public Works and water boards. Discussions centered around promoting coherent government planning and improving the effective

and efficient delivery of services to communities. It also focused on advancing national priorities in line with the Intergovernmental Relations Framework of 2005 and the principles of cooperative governance outlined in Chapter 3 of the Constitution of South Africa of 1996.

There was an update on preparations for the upcoming Local Government Elections scheduled for 4 November 2026, to ensure that relevant stakeholders remained informed and coordinated ahead of the elections. The MuniMEC Forum continues to provide an important platform for provincial and local government to identify challenges, strengthen coordination and develop practical interventions to improve service delivery across the Eastern Cape.



Multiple stakeholders attended the MuniMEC Forum to share ideas on how municipalities and provincial departments can work together to improve service delivery.