



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Elderly people in Xhariep take a stand against GBVF

By Babalwa Solitswayi; GCIS, Free State

On 4 July 2025, the Mayor of Letsemeng Local Municipality, Department of Social Development (DSD), Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the Letsemeng Local Municipality (LLM) in the Xhariep District, joined forces with the Free State Older Persons Forum (FSOPF) and other key stakeholders to commemorate the annual Elderly Abuse Awareness Day. The event took place at Jacobsdal, Ikanyegeng school hall.

Held under the theme: "Grow the conversation, recognise the signs and reduce the risk", the event aimed to give the elderly a chance to voice out their support against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in societies. It also aimed to shed light on how families often protect the perpetrator from the justice system and endanger not only the family but the community at large. The elderly people showcased how they are advocating for change with the current generation who are in the same struggle, saying they are tired of having to bury their children and grandchildren due to violence.

The forum is made up of elderly people from different towns in the Xhariep District, including Trompsburg, Oppermans, Koffiefontein, Jacobsdal, Zastron, Smithfield, Springfontein, Reddersburg, Gariepdam, Bethulie and Edenburg.

The DSD presented about the help and support they provide to victims of violence and explained the challenges they face when victims are further

victimised by family members. DSD representative, Ms Mathapelo Gaebee urged societies to stop protecting perpetrators in the name of family.

Mayor of Letsemeng Local Municipality, Ms Bonolo Mocwaledi, had some encouraging words for the community. "We are here as a government to support you as a nation. GBVF is a pandemic that all of us should stand firm against and protect one another from," said Mocwaledi.



Members of the FSOPF from across the district attending the event.



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Mr Dan Joseph:

"I am proud of the changes that I have witnessed in this country, but it's sad to see women and children being oppressed and treated with such violence just because of their gender."



Mayor of Letsemeng Local Municipality, Bonolo Mocwaledi:

"These are the people who fought for freedom and democracy, and now they are fighting and supporting us in fighting GBVF. I'm astonished to see that you still have the strength and courage to help put a stop to GBVF."



Ms Maria Mofokeng:

"Our kids are dealing with enough as it is due to unemployment and poverty, so I stand in support of saying no to violence."

PRIORITY 4: BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

New lease on life for Endumeni senior citizen

By Fathima Zubane and Thandinkosi Zulu; GCIS, KZN

In a heartwarming tale of community support and government intervention, 62-year-old Mr Erick Kubheka from Forestdale, Endumeni, is finally getting the help he needs. For 28 years, Mr Kubheka has relied on collecting scrap metal to sell to local scrap yards, earning a meagre R150 to R200 per collection. This barely covered his groceries, leaving him with little to no savings.

The tide turned when Ms Ntombikayise Ntuli, a Community Development Worker (CDW) from Endumeni Local Municipality, identified Mr Kubheka's plight and sprang into action. With the help of various government departments and stakeholders, including the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Department of Health (DoH), Department of Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency and KZN Department of Social Development (DSD), Mr Kubheka's life is about to take a dramatic turn.

Through their collective efforts, Mr Kubheka's lost ID book was replaced, allowing him to access essential services. He was subsequently approved for an Old Pension Grant, which will provide a steady income that will go a long way in securing his future. Additionally, a food voucher was secured to help with groceries and he even received a much-needed haircut.

The KZN DSD will facilitate a reunion with his family at Kamelkop, while the DOH will ensure his medical care is transferred to a more accessible clinic. Mr Kubheka's medical file will be transferred from Mpathe to Wasbank Clinic, where he will be able to access his medication.

This remarkable story highlights the impact of government stakeholder engagement, trust and dedication in public service as the country is celebrating Mandela Month. By working together, government departments and community workers can make a real difference in people's lives. Mr Kubheka's story serves as a testament to the power of compassion and collaboration by public servants.

Mr Thandinkosi Zulu from GCIS, went beyond his call of duty to assist Mr Kubheka to open his first bank account and booking an appointment at the DoH. His selfless efforts, combined with the dedication of other stakeholders, have brought joy and relief to Mr Kubheka's life. On 4 July 2025, Mr Kubheka received his first pension payment, a milestone that brought a smile to his face and hope to his heart.



The life of Mr Erick Kubheka turning to be a fortune following the support he received from various government departments.



Ms Nkululeko Gqaname said:

"I appreciate that information was shared about the G20 Summit and that there might be benefits for us as the youth. I will make sure I read more on it and share the information with my peers."



Ms Luyanda Gumede said:

"The G20 is something that we read about on social media and see on TV without understanding what it means for us in communities. It is important as young people that we empower ourselves with government programmes that we can access to improve our lives."

PRIORITY 1: INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

South Africa's G20 Presidency takes centre stage in community awareness programme

By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

As South Africa spearheads the Group of Twenty (G20) Presidency for 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with Community Development Workers (CDWs) and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) to conduct an awareness programme. The event was held on 20 June 2025 in Fochville, Merafong City. The session aimed to educate and empower the community about the G20 and its potential benefits for the country.

As the host province, Gauteng is dedicated to driving coordinated action guided by the principles of inclusivity, consultation and solidarity to deliver tangible solutions to global challenges. This commitment extends to ensuring food security through targeted interventions, including empowering women in agrifood systems and promoting inclusive market participation.

During the event, attendees were encouraged to learn more about the G20 and explore opportunities that the province will make available. Community

CDW, Mr Karabo Moleko urged residents to engage with the Local Economic Development office in their municipality. "As residents of Gauteng, it is imperative to learn how you can get involved and tap into the potential benefits of the G20 Seminar in the province," he said.

The programme was also attended by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), represented by Ms Ntombi Thakhuli, who emphasised the importance of youth participation in democratic processes. She encouraged young people to take part in the next 2025 Local Elections and to engage in decision-making processes, particularly in programmes that affect them to ensure their voices are heard.

This initiative aligns with the theme of the G20 Presidency "Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability." It highlights the value of informed and active citizenry in shaping the country's future.



Ms Ntombi Thakhuli from the IEC, together with Ms Tshidi Mokoka from GCIS, distributing information material to community members.



Community members in Fochville receiving G20 information packages.



Mr Tshifhiwa Tshivhenga, CEO of the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA):

"South African tourism is boosted by the Big Five in our national parks, and this made the Kruger National Park a global tourist attraction, so from the TBCSA, I am encouraging all stakeholders here to protect our rhinos against poachers and invest more to protect our animals."



Mr Rasio Ridhio (Head of Department: Environment) from Indonesia:

"I am aware of the global challenge of rhino poaching but I am happy today about the South African government's approach to combatting rhino poaching by de-horning the rhinos to protect against illegal trading."

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

G20 Working Group tackles rhino poaching

By Todani Livhuwani; GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System team supported the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group at Kruger National Park (Skhukhuza camp) on 16 July 2025. South Africa's G20 Presidency is a coordinated national and global response to one of the most urgent threats facing our biodiversity and a firm commitment to our leadership in global environmental stewardship.

Delivering the keynote address, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Dr Dion George, said, "South Africa's responsibility is clear: we are custodians of more than 80% of the continent's white rhino population and this is the legacy at risk, as poaching is not only a conservation issue but it threatens our economy, our national security and the rule of law." The

illegal rhino horn trade is linked to money laundering, corruption and other serious crimes.

The Minister later launched the Rhino Renaissance Campaign by South African National Parks and various stakeholders to protect the rhinos. The campaign will also create various jobs for locals, where 90 rhinos will be trained and deployed annually across the Kruger National Park.

The Minister also appealed to the G20 delegates to come up with solutions to protect our biodiversity and strengthen the law on rhino poaching across the globe.



G20 delegates attend the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting at Kruger National Park.



Minister Dion George at the Rhino Renaissance Launch in Skhukhuza is leading the de-horning of rhinos by rangers at Kruger National Park.