



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

The rights of persons with disabilities are human rights

By Ndyabo Kopo; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 7 November 2025, the Government Communication and Information System partnered with key stakeholders, including the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), the Umzimvubu Local Municipality, Alfred Nzo District Municipality, the Road Accident Fund, the Department of Transport, and Alfred Nzo Community Radio, to host a mall activation at the Mount Frere Shoprite Mall. The activation aimed to raise awareness on the rights of people with disabilities during Disability Month (3 November – 3 December).

Over the years, at the centre of people with disabilities' struggles and concerns have been issues of accessibility in private and public buildings, including public transport; access to mainstream employment, assistive devices; and skills development opportunities for the sector.

The awareness campaign aimed to engage the public, including employees from both the public and private sectors, to inform them about the needs and rights of people with disabilities. Such programmes are key to maintain awareness that people with disabilities are not looking for sympathy but for equal opportunities and mainstreaming of their rights as a sector.

Currently, the IEC is engaging the public about the upcoming Local Government Elections in 2026. Ms Nokwanda Ngqasa, the District Outreach Officer, says IEC, in their preparation, is taking care of the needs of people with disabilities, which include accessibility of voting stations, braille material in voting stations where it is needed, and consultation with the sector. "This

month, on 21 November 2025, the IEC in Alfred Nzo District will be at Nolitha Special School in eMaXesibeni to engage young people from all the different disability schools in the district about electoral matters. This forms part of our voter education and consultation with sectors," said Ngqasa.



Ms Nokwanda Ngqasa, IEC Alfred Nzo District, Outreach Coordinator:

"This month, on 21 November 2025, as an IEC in Alfred Nzo District, I will be at Nolitha Special School in eMaXesibeni to engage young people from all the different disability schools in the district on electoral matters. This forms part of our voter education and consultation with sectors."



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

King Cetshwayo District G20 SALGA Games outreach

By Nothuthuko Ngubane; GCIS KwaZulu-Natal

The King Cetshwayo District Municipality (KCDM), in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), proudly hosted the highly anticipated SALGA Elimination Games at Showe High School on 18 October 2025. This prestigious sporting event brought together enthusiastic teams from across the district's local municipalities to compete for a place in the upcoming SALGA KZN Provincial Games in December. The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with the municipality and other stakeholders, conducted a comprehensive outreach campaign in support of South Africa's Group of Twenty (G20) Presidency.

This outreach initiative was to ensure that the theme of G20 Presidency – Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability – resonates with all South Africans and translates into tangible benefits for communities, especially those that are often marginalised. The atmosphere at Showe High School was electric as athletes showcased their talent, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The winning teams from this round will go on to represent the District at the SALGA KZN Provincial Games. Participants competed in a variety of sporting codes, including football (men and women), netball, volleyball, athletics and indigenous games.

The event also received strong support from the community, local councillors, and municipal leadership, underscoring the importance of sport in uniting communities and empowering young people. Speaking at the event, the King Cetshwayo District Mayor, Cllr Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, said, "The SALGA Games are more than just a competition – they are a celebration of community spirit and a platform to identify and nurture young talent across our district."

The district is confident that its teams will perform with pride and bring home honours. KCDM remains committed to promoting youth participation, talent development, and healthy living through sustainable sporting programmes.



Youth dialogues with young athletes and spectators from across the KCDM to discuss opportunities for youth empowerment through G20 initiatives.



The King Cetshwayo District Municipal Manager, Mr PP Sibiya, addressing attendees at the King Cetshwayo SALGA Games. The games included the KCDM, and its five Local Municipalities: uMlalazi, uMfolozi, Mthonjaneni, uMhlathuze and Nkandla.



Over 1 000 participants attended the King Cetshwayo SALGA Eliminations Games and had the opportunity to receive information about the G20 during the games.



Young people participating in the SALGA Games had the opportunity to ask questions and deliberate on various issues related to the G20.



More young people received information on the G20, and were also provided leaflets in isiZulu and English.



GCIS, together with the King Cetshwayo District Communications team, conducted interviews with the District Mayor, Cllr Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, about the SALGA Elimination Games.



The GCIS team, which included Dr Bongeka Nkwanyane and Ms Nontuthuko Ngubane, together with the Head of Communications in the KCDM, Mr Thami Shangase, assisted young people with information on G20 during the outreach held at uMlalazi Local Municipality in the Showe area (Showe High Sport Field).



Ms Maoline Jantjies:
"This was such a beautiful little reminder that we are worthy, dankie."

PRIORITY 2: REDUCE POVERTY AND TACKLE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

Women tending the land and the future

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

On Tuesday, 14 October 2025, rural women from across the small town of Nelspoort in the Central Karoo gathered in celebration of the International Day of Rural Women under the banner "Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future". The event, convened by the Western Cape departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, was a heartfelt tribute to the unsung stewards of land and community, while also charting paths toward financial independence, gender justice and agro-processing entrepreneurship.

In her address, Chief Director for Rural Development, Ms Jacqueline Pandaram, paid tribute to the pivotal role rural women play in fostering sustainability. "It's women like you that keep the pot simmering," she declared, reminding the audience that their daily care for land and household is also a foundation for community resilience. Ms Pandaram emphasised that women are change

agents: When they care for natural resources, establish and maintain food gardens, and initiate income-generating ventures, they drive both climate sustainability and poverty alleviation.

The event programme wove together inspiration, practical training and dialogue. A central pillar was the motivational address by Ms Anthonie from Inkkoor that reminded women that they are the salt of the earth and need to forge their own path.

The day concluded with renewed determination as women left empowered to nurture both the land and their communities. Sponsors included Shoprite Freshmark and De Fynne Nursery, who provided gifts to participants in recognition of their invaluable contributions.



Ms Pandaram, in her opening address.



Donations received to share with the Nelspoort community.



Mr Edwin Boshoff highlighted accessible options like jam and preserves, chutney, bread-making, and sausage-making as viable enterprises that add value to local produce.



From left to right: Community members, Ms Yvodia Dick, Ms Jenien Jafta and Ms Doreen Swartz.



Ms Lebohlang Mokoena from Sekgutlong High School:

"This event was important to most of us as teenage girls, as health experts educated us on sexual activities."



Ms Lebogang Molaba from Tseki Secondary School:

"I am grateful that this event happened because I do not think most girls understand how important it is to abstain and prevent teenage pregnancy."

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

The fight against teenage pregnancy

By Phoka Mofokeng, GCIS, Free State

On 14 October 2025, the Free State (FS) Legislature Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) for Health, Mr Monyatso Mahlatsi, alongside *Morena e Moholo wa Bakoena*, and *Morena Moremoholo Mopeli*, joined hands with dedicated health workers during a significant outreach visit to Mampoi High School, nestled in the heart of the Thabo Mofutsanyana Education District. The event brought together learners from surrounding schools in the district, sparking a crucial dialogue on the escalating issue of teenage pregnancy; a growing concern that continues to affect the educational, emotional, and physical well-being of young girls across the province.

The Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality has recently recorded the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the FS. This intervention formed part of a broader provincial strategy aimed at raising awareness, empowering youth through information and strengthening community support systems. The latest health statistics revealed that over 561 girls between the ages of 15-18, and about 36 girls between the ages of 10-14, fell pregnant within the district, and 286 in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, in just one reporting period, figures that underscore the urgency of action.

MEC Monyatso and *Morena e Moholo wa Bakoena* emphasised the importance of restoring dignity, protecting the future of young learners, and fostering open communication between parents, schools and health professionals. The learners were put through an engagement session facilitated by the Love Life NGO on sexual and reproductive health education, consent, contraceptive options, and the long-term impact of early pregnancy on academic success and life opportunities.

This collaborative initiative symbolised a culturally sensitive yet progressive step towards breaking the cycles of poverty and disempowerment caused by early and unplanned pregnancies. It also highlighted the role of traditional leadership, government, and schools in creating safe, informed, and supportive environments where every learner, especially the girl child, can thrive.



Group leaders from various schools presented on the causes of teenage pregnancy and how they should prevent it.



MEC for Health in the FS, Hon. Monyatso Mahlatsi, addressing the learners on teenage pregnancy and health risks.



Learners from various secondary schools in Qwaqwa are attending the session.