



MYDISTRICTTODAY



Special SoNA issue: February 2025

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PRIORITY 1: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

GCIS embarks on massive pre-2025 SoNA mobilisation activities

By Boipelo Sefoka; GCIS, Head office

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) engaged in numerous initiatives to mobilise South Africans to participate in the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) presented by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Cape Town City Hall on Thursday, 6 February 2025. The SoNA was held under the theme: "A nation that works for all", and coincided with the 70th anniversary of the 1955 Freedom Charter, a cornerstone of the South Africa's democracy.

One of the key plans as mentioned in the President's speech, was that the South African Government sought to stimulate inclusive economic growth to more than 3% of gross domestic product and to create jobs, reduce poverty and improve the lives of all citizens.

To heighten awareness in communities around the significance of the SoNA, the GCIS lined up a series of events across all provinces to widen government's reach to communities, its programmes and policies, community activations and outreaches. These mobilisation activities underscored the GCIS's

commitment to fostering an informed and engaged citizenry, ensuring that the SoNA reached a broad audience and encouraged active participation in national development programmes.

In the Western Cape, Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong, led pre-mobilisation activities in partnership with the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), MTN and Capital Centric, where they visited schools and donated shoes before going to Zibonele Community Radio Station to hand over radio equipment. The GCIS held an exhibition and Information Day at Guga's Thebe Arts Centre in Kwa-Langa, Cape Town and a Community Media Consultative Forum with the Western Cape community media sector.

Citizens were encouraged to tune into various television and radio stations to experience this significant national event; while government and Parliament's social media accounts availed updates through the hashtag #SoNA2025.



STATE of the NATION ADDRESS

A nation that works for all

THURSDAY | 6 FEBRUARY 2025 | 19:00

#SONA2025



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Mr Bonolo Ramokgele from Zandspruit, Gauteng said:

“My expectations are that the President continues with the socio-economic transformation journey the country is involved in, clarity on all matters related to transformation, cementing the need for transformation in schools, through the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act, access to learning for most learners. If I were the President, I would change the state of schools in South Africa, especially in disadvantaged areas. The most important thing to me in my country is delivery of services through maintained stakeholder relations.”



Ms Primrose Ntli from Cosmo City, Gauteng said:

“I will be watching the President’s address on Thursday, and I wish he can touch on the issue of improving public schools, clinics and a permanent solution to load shedding. If I were the President, my focus would be on ensuring that there is adequate school funding for the youth because they are South Africa’s future.”



Mr Gontse Mokhothu from Welkom, Free State said:

“I will surely watch SoNA if there’s electricity, as in my area we are experiencing load reduction a lot. I would like the President to talk about plans on water supply, which we don’t have in Thabong for a week now and sewage spillage that’s all over Matjhabeng. Our country has good plans to improve our lives with no implementation. I would start by hiring an energetic, younger generation to implement plans to run the country. For me, reviving the economy is very much important so that we can have employment for our youth.”



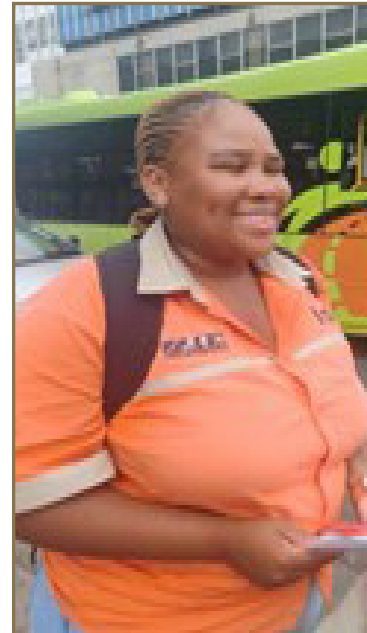
Ms Melita Ndaba from Frankfort, Free State said:

“I will be accessing the President’s SoNA through Lesedi FM. I wish the President could zoom into the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and address administrative anomalies that lead to parents paying out where government is already assisting. If I were the President, I would put up strict monitoring of measures in place in the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) because I know I am not the only one who is registering a concern about malfunctions of the entity, and some have had the opportunity to make the responsible Minister aware. There is too much freedom, everyone can do things they wouldn’t or cannot do in other countries. I wish we could see government doing something about tightening the laws of this country against crime and illegalities.”



Mr Dingane Mngomezulu from Frankfort, Free State said:

"I will be accessing the President's SoNA on radio. I wish the President could take us into confidence about what is going to happen to government projects such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), since we are now governed by the Government of National Unity. I wish he could assure us that we will not be dismissed or cut-off the benefit because we appreciate the initiative in the fight against unemployment. If I were the President, I'd put measures in place to absorb the current beneficiaries that have served in the programme for over 24 months (equivalent to an internship programme period) so as to create space for other unemployed youth to try luck in job hunting. We have a government that cares about its people, we acknowledge all the initiatives, however small or big that government is implementing to accommodate us as a nation."



Ms Tsholofelo Kgohlo from Botshabelo, Free State said:

"I wish to see more job opportunities being created for young people, I am currently working as an EPWP participant, not earning enough. I would like to see more opportunities for the youth. If I were the President, I would work together with the private sector to create job opportunities and invest in infrastructure, while also addressing service delivery. What is most important to me about my country is that we have a good Constitution that ensures that everyone has equal rights."



Ms Lungile Vilakazi from Warden, Free State said:

"Budget cuts on health and substance abuse should form bulk topics of the President's speech because people with chronic diseases are suffering and dying. Drug dealer's cases are taken out of the court roll because of poor investigations and delays in test laboratories. If I were the President, I would prioritise health and establish a nationwide substance abuse campaign and build rehabilitation centres closer to communities. Education and health are important, because education helps us to be knowledgeable and health improves the living status of many families."



Deputy Minister Morolong accompanied by GCIS Acting Deputy Director-General, Mr Sandile Nene, visiting the Oasis Special School in Belhar for the School Connect Programme, joined by MTN General Manager for Regional Operations in the Western Cape, Ms Noluthando Pama and the School Principal, Ms Mantanga.



Deputy Minister Morolong highlighting the need for financial sustainability and digitalisation of community media during the MDDA's Community Media Consultative Forum at the Khayelitsha Thusong Centre.



The GCIS exhibited and supported the National Youth Development Agency and the DHET at a career guidance and opportunities expo in Khayelitsha.



The Democracy Bus at the Lathi-tha School of Skills in Khayelitsha, to join Deputy Minister Morolong during the donation of school shoes.



Deputy Minister Morolong joined by senior officials from MTN South Africa and Capital Centric, officiating the Schools Connectivity Programme at Rusthof LSEN Primary School.



Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mr Mondli Gungubele, leading the Pledge Against Women and Children Abuse during the pre-SoNA Mens's Dialogue at the Saul Tsoetsi Hall, Sebokeng.



Learners of Iphondle Secondary School in Warden, listening attentively to the SoNA message.



Mr Tammy Radebe from Phumelela Local Municipality, Free State, engaging learners of Iphondle Secondary School.



The Executive Mayor of Setsoto Local Municipality, Cllr Seipati Mbiwe, in conversation with Mr Letsema Mofubedu at Setsoto FM in Ficksburg on the significance of the SoNA.



Cllr Mandlenkosi Dlamini, Speaker at the Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality during a pre-SoNA interview at Qwa-Qwa FM in Phuthaditjhaba.



Ms Mary Raletsoane from Meqheleng Business Forum in conversation with Mr Letsema Mofubedu on SoNA expectations and developments for small businesses.