



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

GCIS hosts cyberbullying awareness event at Laerskool Gerrit Maritz

By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

On 12 March 2026, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a cyberbullying awareness programme at Laerskool Gerrit Maritz in Westonaria. The session targeted the Representative Council of Learners (RCLs) and prefects from local schools in the area. The event aimed to educate learners about the dangers of cyberbullying and promote responsible online behaviour.

Stakeholders from the Film and Publication Board (FPB); Westrand District Health; the South African Police Service, represented by Westonaria Police Station; and the National Prosecuting Authority shared their expertise, discussing ways to recognise signs of cyberbullying, and reporting of incidents that often affects mental health. Ms Obakeng Maimane from the

FPB emphasised to learners that "the internet does not forget", highlighting the importance of responsible online behaviour. "I say this because young people believe that what they posted online and later deleted cannot be found again. They realise this when they start looking for jobs and are turned down because of their behaviour online."

The event underscored the value of collaboration in addressing cyberbullying and promoting digital citizenship, empowering students to make informed choices and creating a safer online environment. Other stakeholders supporting the programme included the Westrand District Municipality, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Community Development Workers and the Rand West City Local Municipality.



Ms Obakeng Maimane from the FPB engaging with learners about the dangers of cyberbullying.



RCLs and prefects listening attentively to stakeholders speaking on the dangers and consequences of cyberbullying.



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Mr Puseletso Maduna said:
"Cyberbullying occurs all the time among young people. With so many of us having phones, it has become easy to bully others. It is up to us how we want to use the information that we received today because at the end of the day, bullying can have lifelong consequences."



Ms Disebo Sello said:
"As a learner who is part of RCL, I believe that the information that was shared today will help us to take it further and continue to share it with the schools that we come from. As young people we seem to forget that although social media can be entertaining, it can also be harmful. It is up to us how we want to engage on social media."

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

Linking farmers with businesses to strengthen the agricultural sector

By Babalwa Solitswayi; GCIS, Free State

A stakeholder engagement aimed at linking farmers with businesses and government departments within the agricultural sector was held on 11 March 2026. The engagement sought to promote collaboration, enhance information sharing and provide targeted support to local farmers. The initiative created a platform for farmers to engage directly with financial institutions, agricultural service providers, and government departments to explore opportunities to strengthen and grow their farming operations.

Several businesses participated in the engagement, including Itaú, Land Bank, OVK, Kyrone and Eco Guard/Terranova. These organisations provided valuable insights into financial support mechanisms, farming inputs, and innovative agricultural solutions aimed at improving productivity and sustainability.

Government departments played a pivotal role in the engagement. Representatives from the Department of Employment and Labour, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the Independent Electoral Commission, and the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency shared information on government programmes, labour legislation within the agricultural sector and various support services available to farmers.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) supported the initiative by disseminating information on government campaigns, programmes and services. GCIS further ensured that farmers received essential information intended to improve awareness of, and access to government resources.

During the engagement, stakeholders emphasised the importance of disease control in the agricultural sector, particularly with regard to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Farmers were encouraged to remain vigilant, promptly report suspected cases, and adhere to prescribed biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the disease which poses a significant risk to livestock production and the wider agricultural economy.

The event provided farmers with an opportunity to ask questions, establish partnerships and gain valuable knowledge that can contribute to the growth and sustainability of the local agricultural sector.



Mr John Karrlson from OVK delivered a presentation highlighting the benefits available to farmers who become OVK clients.



Mr Kagiso Moroka outlined the process and requirements involved to purchase land.



Mr Clint Barnes, a livestock farmer, delivered the welcome address and outlined the purpose of the engagement.



Mr Willie Makumane, from the Jojo company showcased sustainable technological solutions aimed at improving farm efficiency and productivity.



Businesses such as Jojo Tank, OVK, and Eco-Guard/Terranova exhibited their products and services during the event.

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

GCIS and SAHRC engage community on Human Rights and 30 Years of the Constitution

By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga



Ms Mandisa Mahlangu:

“We received a lot of information regarding human rights, including guidance on how to use the IEC application to register and vote online.”



Mr John Kabini:

“Government stakeholders are doing the right thing by visiting communities to raise awareness about human rights, as many people lack this knowledge. We are grateful that this engagement took place in our community.”

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), successfully hosted a community dialogue on 12 March 2026. The dialogue aimed to raise awareness on human rights issues while commemorating the 30th anniversary of the South African Constitution. This initiative formed part of ongoing efforts to promote constitutional democracy and ensure that communities are well informed about their rights and responsibilities.

Community members were engaged under the national theme, “Bill of Rights at 30: Making Human Dignity Real”, which was clearly articulated to promote a deeper understanding of how constitutional rights are experienced in everyday life.

During the engagement, the SAHRC provided detailed overview of its mandate as a Chapter 9 institution, highlighting its role in promoting, protecting, and monitoring human rights in South Africa. The presentation emphasised the constitutional values of human dignity, equality and freedom. Community members were encouraged to actively uphold and defend these rights in their daily lives.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) also delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining its constitutional and legislative mandate as a Chapter

9 institution responsible for strengthening democracy. The IEC emphasised the importance of active citizen participation in democratic processes, with a particular focus on voter registration and participation in elections.

Furthermore, the IEC further shared valuable information on its online services, including how members of the community can register to vote, verify their voter registration details on the voters’ roll and access other electoral services through digital platforms. The information was intended to empower citizens to utilise accessible and convenient tools to participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentations, affording community members an opportunity to seek clarity, share views, and engage in constructive dialogue on matters relating to human rights and democracy. The interactive engagement reflected positive community participation and increased awareness of constitutional rights and civic responsibilities.

The community dialogue reinforced the government's commitment to building an informed, active, and rights-conscious society, while commemorating the three decades of constitutional democracy founded on the principles human dignity, equality and freedom.

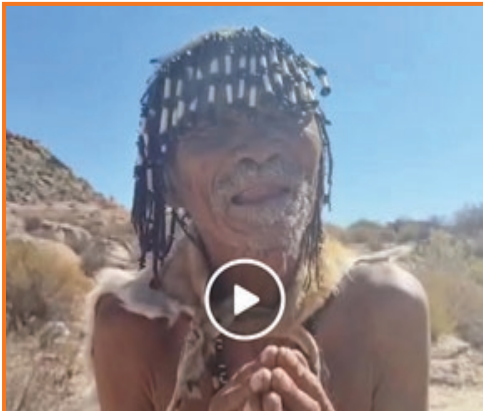


Human rights awareness campaign held at Tweefontein in the Thembeisile Hani Local Municipality.

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

Reburial of 63 ancestral remains of Nama and Khoi people

By Olebogeng Stephen Moseki; GCIS, Northern Cape



Oom Petrus Vaalbooi:

“To be quite honest, what is happening today is beyond my expectation. I also express my wish for unity of the Nama and Khoi people.”

The Kinderlê Monument in Steinkopf, within the Nama Khoi Local Municipality of the Namakwa District, was the site of a historic reburial ceremony held on 23 March 2026. Officiated by President Cyril Ramaphosa, the ceremony marked the return and reburial of 63 ancestral remains of the Nama and Khoi people.

The remains had been unlawfully removed from their original burial sites between 1868 and 1924 for archaeological research purposes. Their return and reburial signified an important step towards healing and restoring dignity to the affected communities.

The ceremony brought long-awaited closure to decades of dehumanisation endured by the Nama and Khoi people. Addressing attendees, Mr James Mapanga, leader of the task team representing the traditional leadership

of the Nama and Khoi communities, emphasised the significance of the occasion saying: “This is not merely a burial; it is a restoration of dignity long denied.”

President Ramaphosa echoed these sentiments in his address, affirming the humanity and worth of the Khoi and San people. “They were not nobodies. They came from communities. They had families. Each and every one of their lives had meaning and purpose,” he said.

Held during South Africa’s commemoration of Human Rights Month, the ceremony was conducted in accordance with the indigenous spiritual and cultural practices of the Khoi and San people. In doing so, it reinforced the Human Rights Month theme: “Bill of Rights at 30: Making Human Dignity Real”.



Ms Ria Reen:

“For me this is big and deeply emotional; I was part of the task team that travelled to Izuko Museum to retrieve the remains.”



President Cyril Ramaphosa wraps one of the coffins during the reburial ceremony.



Members of the Cape Khoi leadership and dignitaries in attendance at the reburial.



Khoi and Nama leadership lower one of the coffins as part of the final rites.