



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 3: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Justice department launches Small Claims Court in Pampierstad

By Mpho More; GCIS, Northern Cape

The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Andries Nel and Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Ms Nonceba Mhlauli, officially launched a Small Claims Court on 3 March 2025, at the Pampierstad Magistrates Court, Frances Baard District.

The launch of the court forms part of ongoing efforts by the department to enhance access to justice by bringing legal services to the people to resolve minor civil disputes quicker, easier and without a legal representative. In her capacity as the Frances Baard District Development Model (DDM) Champion, Deputy Minister Mhlauli said that the purpose of the DDM was to ensure that government worked as a collective from the national, provincial and local levels, to ensure delivery of services to the people.

In his keynote address, Deputy Minister Nel said, "The name Small Claims Court suggests this is a small thing, but it is actually a very big thing for many South Africans because of the right to get access to justice. If you have a problem, dispute or disagreement with someone, we do not want those disputes to be resolved in violence. We want them to be resolved by the court or by an independent person who will listen to both sides of the story, decide and once a decision is made, will respect it." He further explained that the types of cases that will be addressed by the court include disputes around rentals and loans of less than R20 000.

The community was afforded an opportunity to express their views, and they thanked government for always bringing services to them.



Deputy Minister Nel delivering his keynote address.



Members of the Pampierstad community in attendance.



Deputy Ministers Nel and Mhlauli unveil the Small Claims Court plaque.



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Ms Dorothy Sidisho:
“I loaned my ex-colleague R3 800 many years back; she is always telling me that she doesn’t have money. I’m happy that I will come to the court for assistance.”



Mr William Shimane:
“I would like to thank the government for bringing the Small Claims Court to us. It is going to be easy because there are a lot of problems within our communities. We always have to resolve *stokvel* problems where others are misusing the money and become arrogant when it is time to pay it back.”



Mr Tumelo Kock:
“We are sitting with a problem of loan sharks; we hope the government will regulate the statement of profit and loss.”



Ms Polotso Thulo, eKFM:

“I now know Gibela is more than just train manufacturing; today was an eye-opener for me. As a young journalist, is it the narrative we need to tell? In spite of all problems and challenges, there is some good done to develop our country and service delivery, especially in the public transport sector.”



Mr Eric Phiri, News Talk:

“I am amazed that the manufacturing and production of these high-tech and modern trains are made locally and proudly South African. We have the capacity as a country to be self-sustainable, as long as we have the right people and skills and they are correctly placed and doing the correct job, we can truly flourish and succeed.”

PRIORITY 3: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

The GCIS partners with Gibela Rail Consortium to celebrate 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy

By Jacob Molete; GCIS, Gauteng

As part of celebrating 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), partnered with Gibela Rail Consortium (GRC) on 28 March 2025, to host a community media facility visit at the Gibela Rail Factory in Nigel, City of Ekurhuleni. The visit to the manufacturing plant was to provide a first-hand account to community media outlets in Gauteng on the achievement of manufacturing proudly South African trains.

GRC is a Black Economic Empowerment rail transport consortium established in 2013, comprising Alstom and uBumbano Rail. The company is responsible for the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA)'s Rolling-Stock Fleet Renewal Programme, meant to deliver trainsets and provide technical support and related services. The rail factory boosts modern, state-of-the-

art train manufacturing and production facilities, and is an important hub for engineering and manufacturing excellence. The consortium is contracted by PRASA to deliver 580 modern commuter trains to the South African rail network over 10 years.

GRC's story showcases progress made towards improving the provision of public rail transport and links with pillar two of the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy campaign. Cabinet approved implementation of the communication campaign from March 2024 to March 2025, to highlight the strides made by various government administrations in pursuing the goals of a developmental state. The campaign includes four pillars: The People, Government of the People, Freedom for All and Festivities.



Members of various Gauteng community media outlets pose next to the Democracy Bus.



Train production process at the Gibela Train Factory.



Stakeholders board a train for a test ride.

PRIORITY I: INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Stakeholders host dialogue to foster a culture of respect for human rights

By Mmapeneng Lekitlane; GCIS, Free State

On 20 March 2025, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Maluti Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, University of the Free State (UFS), South African Human Rights Commission and the Agape Foundation for Community Development, hosted a Human Rights Dialogue at Maluti TVET College's Kwetlisong Campus. The dialogue aimed to foster a culture of respect for human rights, promote social cohesion and address the ongoing challenges of inequality and inclusivity.

During the discussions, participants lamented that the legacy of apartheid had caused issues of inclusion and inequality, which resulted in differences when it comes to work, education and wealth; especially for Black South Africans. The notion of promoting diversity and inclusion, guaranteeing equal

access to opportunities and cultivating a sense of justice and belonging for all citizens, are necessary to address these discrepancies.

Panellists also highlighted that inclusion gave all students in a community equal access to the standard curriculum and classroom regardless of their disparities in intelligence, physical attributes, sensory perception or other areas. Human rights, equity, social justice, respect and caring are foundations of inclusion, which prioritises variety over assimilation. South Africa has, and continues to make great strides in promoting inclusive socio-economic development while continuing to combat racism, racial discrimination and related forms of intolerance.



Mr Thato Lepele, Maluti TVET College student:

“This dialogue was very much insightful because one might think that human rights inclusivity and diversity are actually being implemented in the right way or maybe what we have now is enough, but the conversation we have just had was eye-opening that we still have to do some more improvements and developments on current policies and everything that has to do with human rights inclusivity and diversity.”



Ms Nthabiseng Sibande, UFS student:

“I really liked how they addressed what happened to South Africa before and how it is now, and the human rights that we should focus on from now moving into the future.”

PRIORITY 3: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

30 Years of Freedom and Democracy celebration at Mogalakwena Local Municipality

By Maria Ramoshaba; GCIS, Limpopo

On 19 February 2025, the Democracy Bus visited Mogalakwena Local Municipality, as part of showcasing government's achievements over the last 30 years. The tour started at the Mmahlee Library, where the Mayor of Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Cllr Ngoako Taueatswala, engaged with stakeholders from the Limpopo departments of Social Development and Health (DoH), South African Police Service, non-governmental organisations and community members.

"The 30 Years of Democracy bus tour is an opportunity for our community to come together and reflect on the progress made towards democracy and unity. We are working tirelessly to address the pressing concerns of our residents and ensure that our municipality is a better place for all," said Cllr Taueatswala. He further emphasised that the municipality would not tolerate any stoppage of projects for selfish reasons, as this delayed progress and hindered service delivery in Mogalakwena communities. The municipality is busy with a water scheme at Kroomklof which will supply 32 villages with water.

Learners from the Dennis Mathlaba High School had an opportunity to be addressed on teenage pregnancy by a young doctor, Dr Johannes Magaela, from George Masebe Hospital. The DoH reported that there was a high risk of teenage pregnancies in schools, which can lead to early dropout and prevent learners from enjoying the benefits created by democracy, such as bursaries and scholarships.

Ms Khutso Ramoshaba, a successful businesswoman who was funded by the Small Enterprise Development Finance Agency (SEFDA) with an amount of R250 000, was also visited. She runs a confectionary business and through support from SEFDA and Anglo Platinum Mine's Zimele Programme, she recently opened a shop which sells mining safety gear – creating job opportunities for 10 people.



Cllr Taueatswala engages with stakeholders on 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy.



Government Communication and Information System Officer, Mr Nkateko Mkhatswa, outlines the purpose of the bus tour.



Stakeholders from Bakenberg with the Mayor of Mogalakwena, Cllr Taueatswala, posing next to the Democracy Bus.



Orientation at the Kroomklof Water Treatment Project.



Dr Johannes Magaela, George Masebe Hospital:

"I appreciate the opportunity provided to me to access a bursary to study Medicine. Now I am proudly a qualified doctor at George Masebe Hospital. I hope the learners of Dennis have heard me, study hard to access the opportunities that are available now and stop the sexual activities."



Ms Khutso Ramoshaba, Khulesara Confectionary:

"I am a successful businesswoman today through the support of SEFDA. I started by selling scones on the streets. I did not know how to draft a business plan and how to run a business. The business training offered by SEFDA sharpened me. The fund opened a big door for me to be a successful businesswoman. I am happy that I have created job opportunities."