



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

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

Freedom Month activation brings services to Klaarstroom community

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

As South Africa commemorates Freedom Day during April, communities across the country reflect on the historic milestone of the 1994 democratic elections, which marked the birth of a democratic nation founded on equality, human dignity and human rights. Freedom Month also serves as a reminder of progress made over the past three decades, while also encouraging active citizenship and community participation.

On 10 April 2026, a Freedom Month activation was held in Klaarstroom, a small rural community in the Central Karoo. Given the area's limited access to essential government services, the activation provided an important opportunity to bring multiple services directly to residents through a coordinated outreach.

The initiative brought together key stakeholders including the Electoral

Commission of South Africa (IEC), the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, Legal Aid South Africa, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, the South African Police Service and Prince Albert community.

Community members accessed a range of services including voter registration support, health information, legal advice, agricultural support and safety awareness. The engagement highlighted the importance of collaboration among government departments and partners in ensuring that even the most remote communities are reached.

This activation reflects government's ongoing commitment to bringing services closer to the people, promoting the values of Freedom Month and strengthening democracy at grassroots level.



Community activation in Klaarstroom.



Prince Albert IEC Municipal Outreach Coordinators at the Klaarstroom community activation, registering youth as first-time voters.



Legal Aid assisting local residents with legal matters.



Community members accessing information from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture on backyard gardening.



government communications

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

Taxi rank activation drives civic awareness during Freedom Month

By Lihle Nxumalo; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), held a taxi rank activation at the Isiphingo taxi rank on 10 April 2026, as part of Freedom Month commemorations. The initiative used the busy transport hub as a strategic platform to engage commuters from diverse communities, bringing essential government information and services closer to the people.

Through face-to-face engagements, distribution of information materials and on-site assistance, officials highlighted the significance of Freedom Month and South Africa’s democratic journey. The activation also emphasised the importance of active citizenship in a constitutional democracy.

A key focus of the activation was to promote voter registration and participation with IEC officials assisting commuters to register, update their details and verify their voter status; while emphasising the importance of participation in electoral processes.

Commuters welcomed the initiative, describing the information as clear, relevant and easy to understand. Many praised the efficiency of the

services, noting that they could resolve queries quickly without having to visit IEC offices. Other commuters said the engagement helped them better understand their rights and responsibilities. Overall, the campaign was well organised and people centred, strengthening trust in public institutions and encouraging greater participation in democratic processes.



Ms Silindile Ndlovu:

“I am happy that Government Communications and IEC are engaging people at taxi ranks because not everyone has access to this kind of information.”



Ms Lihle Nxumalo from the GCIS, engages commuters and hawkers on the importance of Freedom Month.



The IEC, together with GCIS, engaging with commuters at the Isiphingo Taxi Rank, encouraging voter participation and registering people on the spot.

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

Freedom Month activation empowers residents through information and services

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 10 April 2026, the Government Communication and Information System held a Freedom Month activation at the taxi rank in Kariega, within the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality. The activation aimed to educate residents about the significance of Freedom Month and the importance of preserving and advancing the democratic gains achieved in South Africa. It brought together key stakeholders committed to community development and public empowerment.

Freedom Month commemorates the country's journey to democracy and encourages citizens to reflect on their rights and responsibilities. Through the initiative, residents were reminded of the value of freedom, active citizenship and participation in democratic processes.

The event was supported by various stakeholders including the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), Legal Aid South Africa, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), and the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. Each stakeholder played a vital role in ensuring that the activation was informative, accessible and impactful.

Throughout the activation, stakeholders shared information on services and programmes available

to them. Legal Aid South Africa provided guidance on legal rights and access to justice, while Stats SA highlighted the importance of accurate data collection and participation in national surveys. CoGTA and the municipality focused on service delivery, governance and community development initiatives.

A key highlight of the activation was the IEC's on-site voter registration service, where residents updated their registration details – reinforcing participation in the electoral processes as a cornerstone of democracy.

The activation was well received, with many residents expressing appreciation for the opportunity to access multiple services in one place. By combining civic education with service delivery, the event not only raised awareness about Freedom Month but also empowered residents to play an active role in shaping their communities.

This Freedom Month activation demonstrated the value of stakeholder collaboration in promoting civic education and ensuring communities are informed, engaged and equipped to exercise their rights.



Stakeholders interacting with residents during the taxi activation.



Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa:

“As government, we need to collaborate with TVET colleges and other departments, including the local municipalities, to ensure that youth learn skills that are going to be needed for these jobs that are going to be created.”



Ms Segametsi Segopolo from Botshelo Sega NGO:

“I am hoping that the conference will look at compliance as one of the critical points we are struggling with to ensure that we sustain our businesses.”



Ms Mmabatho Mabika from Leyana Legacy Pty Ltd:

“I am expecting to see opportunity as to how women can position themselves as business decision-makers in the country’s growing landscape. The Northern Cape is currently one of the industrial leaders, and I want to know how young ladies like myself with companies that started from grassroots will benefit from the conference.”

PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

Northern Cape launches first Investment Conference in Kimberley

By Tesah Gavhi, Kgomotso Sentso and Mpho More; GCIS, Northern Cape

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), hosted an inaugural Northern Cape Investment and Jobs Conference from 13 to 15 April 2026, at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley, Frances Baard District. The conference brought together Ministers, Provincial Government leadership and local entrepreneurs to strengthen alignment on a shared objective of converting the province’s agricultural and mineral endowments into sustainable investment and employment opportunities.

In his keynote address, the dtic Minister, Mr Parks Tau, highlighted the potential of the Northern Cape’s mineral resources and renewable energy, noting the province’s role as a frontier for economic and industrial growth.

A key milestone of the conference was the launch of InvestSA’s One Stop Shop, officiated by the Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul. The platform is intended to reduce regulatory bottlenecks and expedite investment approvals. Head of Department for the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Thami Mabija, said that the One Stop Shop would simplify compliance processes for businesses.

On the final day of the conference, the province announced investment pledges totalling R105 330 billion for new and expanded mining, energy and agriculture projects. These commitments are expected to create 19 800 new jobs.



Minister Tau addressing delegates during the conference.



Attendees at the Investment and Job Conference at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre.



Investment accords were signed at the conference held in Kimberley.