



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Phelophepa Healthcare Train brings hope and healing to communities

By Zwanga Matsila; GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Phelophepa Healthcare Train arrived at the Waterval Boven Train Station during the week of 5 to 9 May 2025, to provide healthcare services to communities in and around the Nkangala District and Emakhazeni Local Municipalities.

The main objective of the train is to provide health screening, prevention, treatment and early detection of medical conditions, as well as educate people on the importance of looking after their health. Operated and managed by the Transnet Foundation since 1994, Phelophepa (pronounced pay-lo-pe-pa) is a Setswana word which means "good, clean health". The train began as a small mobile eye clinic, and has since grown into a fully functional mobile primary healthcare clinic offering eye tests and prescription glasses,

dental, psychological and counselling services, oral health assessments and treatments, mental health support and dispensing of medication.

Phelophepa has 19 coaches, a dedicated staff complement of 65 professionals and final-year students in different health disciplines from various universities around the country. The train operates from 7:30am to 4:00pm daily and spends a week in each community.

The Waterval Boven Train Station platform was filled with community members waiting to see the doctors onboard with their clinic cards in hand. Phelophepa is one of the South African Government's success stories since the dawn of democracy.



Community members waiting to consult various doctors and collect medicine from the Phelophepa Healthcare Train.



government
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Ms Lindiwe Ngcongwana:
"I am happy to be here at the train station, it assists us a lot. Today I am here for eye screening and testing, hoping that they will give me glasses because I cannot see properly."



Ms Reikie Cooper:
"I am happy about the mobile clinic; the service is good. They should just inform us about the servicing times so that we can be aware of what is happening."



Ms Nomfundo Shabangu:
"I brought my children to the Phelophepa Healthcare Train. I am grateful for the services they are bringing to our doorsteps, and the health providers are friendly."

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

DSAC celebrates living legend for her role in preserving indigenous Khoi language

By Lecrecia Prins; GCIS, Northern Cape

On Thursday, 24 April 2025, the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Gayton McKenzie, reflected on the lives of the unsung heroes and heroines who shaped South Africa's cultural and historical landscape. The Minister was addressing guests at the Freedom Month celebrations held in Upington, ZF Mgcawu District.

Minister McKenzie led a special celebration in honour of Ouma Katrina Esau, widely recognised as a living human treasure and a revered figure in the preservation of the N|uu language and Khoi-San cultural heritage. In 2023, the University of Cape Town bestowed an Honorary Doctorate on Ouma Katrina, the last remaining fluent speaker of the critically endangered N|uu language.

During his keynote address, the Minister said, "A person who preserves a language, preserves a nation because there is no nation without a language." He said many legends were being praised but left out in the cold and are struggling, and that should not be allowed.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB), Mr Lance Schults, said that the only way for people to preserve and avoid the decline of their languages, was to use those languages consistently. He continued that the country had enough laws and regulations to ensure the protection of official languages, including that of the San, Khoi and N|uu; and that nothing prevented schools and communities from providing affordable teaching and learning programmes.

The N|uu language, classified by the United Nations as critically endangered, was officially declared extinct in 1973, following the systematic marginalisation of indigenous languages under apartheid and the enforced dominance of Afrikaans in public and economic life.

The event was attended by, among others, the Speaker of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Cllr Stanley Pieterse; officials from DSAC; PanSALB; and the San Tradition Council, represented by Prince Levie Leisa and Chief Petrus Vaalbooi.



Minister McKenzie and Ouma Katrina at the Living Legends recognition event in Upington.



Guests attending the event.



Cultural dance group performance.



Minister McKenzie and Ouma Katrina joined by other guests.



Ouma Katrina Esau:

“It is very important for me to keep the language that I grew with alive, and never got tired of teaching it to the kids, who are now speaking it. I am very happy and grateful for what happened today; now everyone will know me.”



Minister McKenzie:

“It is a privilege for me to be able to honour Ouma Katriena today, as many legends are praised but left out in the cold.”

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality hosts G20 consultation session

By Rapelang Motlagomang; GCIS, North West

The Government Communication and Information System supported the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) in a G20 Stakeholders' Consultation session held at North West University (NWU)'s Potchefstroom campus on 24 April 2025. The formed part of build-up activities for the G20 Conference on Financial Inclusion and Women's Empowerment, which will focus on women's economic empowerment for inclusive growth.

Stakeholders from the disability sector, youth and women formed part of the session and gave key inputs on how they could be included in the economic growth of the country. The event was graced by the Mayor of JB Marks Local Municipality, Cllr Gaba Thithiba ka Qhele; Acting Mayor of Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Cllr Mpho Matsapola; and Director-General in the DWYPD, Advocate (Adv) Mikateko Maluleke.

Delivering the keynote address, North West Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Oageng Molapisi, said that the journey to equality was not to

be taken as a solo endeavour, but rather as a collective. "It is the responsibility of both the government and the community to work together to identify challenges and develop solutions for them." He further said that there were still hindrances to achieving equality, such as gender-based violence and femicide, and that the province empowered non-governmental organisations to help combat the scourge.

One of the attendees at the session, Mr Meshack Coach Matlawe from the disability sector, shared his sentiments, "I am happy that I formed part of the Consultation Forum. I hope that all our inputs will be taken into cognisance as part of inclusive growth. The disability sector should also form part of the economy of the country, as we are more than capable of doing more as a sector."

The inputs from the Consultation Forum will form part of the broader G20 South Africa 2025 Conference on Financial Inclusion and Women Empowerment to be held at Sun City in May.



The panel of the G20 Stakeholders' Consultation included MEC Molapisi, Cllr Gaba Thithiba ka Qhele, Cllr Matsapola and Adv Maluleke.



Stakeholders from across the province who formed part of the consultation session at NWU's Potchefstroom campus.



Some of the panel members present at the G20 Stakeholders' Consultation.

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

Noordhoek community unites to tackle rising GBVF

By Esmarelda Mckay; GCIS, Western Cape

On 17 April 2025, a vital community dialogue focused on the urgent issue of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), took place at the Noordhoek Library in the Bergrivier Local Municipality, under the West Coast District Municipality. The dialogue brought together key stakeholders, including the Government Communication and Information System; South African Police Service (SAPS); departments of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD), Health (DoH), Social Development and Education; Mfesane non-governmental organisation; youth groups and community development formations.

Driven by a disturbing rise in rape cases reported by the DoH, the dialogue aimed to explore actionable solutions and improve support services for survivors. Mr Jason Bosman delivered a compelling presentation on the importance of urgent intervention, while Ms Petulia Brown from the DoJ&CD,

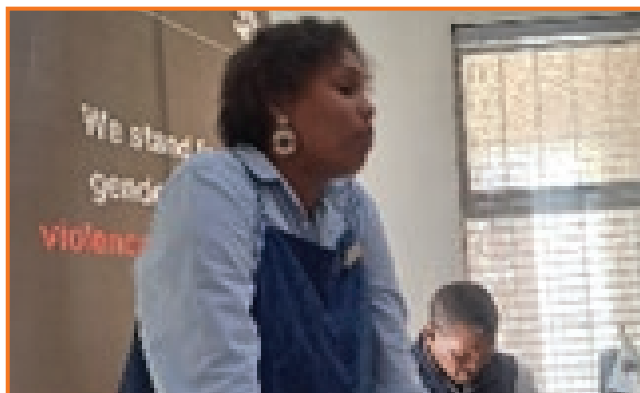
expressed strong support for the collaborative efforts. Ms Ray Petersen highlighted the challenges around delayed response times for victims needing immediate assistance.

Participants stressed the need for stronger community awareness, improved victim support services, increased SAPS visibility and better interdepartmental coordination. The call to action was clear: more support structures must be introduced and preventative education intensified.

The session closed with a shared commitment to build a safer, more responsive community where survivors are supported and GBVF is actively addressed.



Mr Bosman delivered a clear and impactful presentation on the importance of the dialogue, highlighting the harsh reality reflected in the rape statistics reported at the clinic.



Ms Brown from the DoJ&CD expressed the department's support for the initiative.



Ms Petersen made valuable inputs to the discussion, emphasising the ongoing challenges with delayed response times when providing assistance to victims.