



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

### 365 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children

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

As South Africa ended its official 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign, the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality hosted a community dialogue on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) at the Helen Joseph Learning Centre in Galeshewe on 10 December 2025.

The dialogue aimed to promote activism around GBVF throughout 365 days of the year, and encourage community support and solidarity in fighting the scourge, with attendees calling for collective action to create a safer and more supportive environments for women and children. Discussions emphasised the importance of speaking out against abuse and reporting incidents to authorities, highlighting the critical role community members played in preventing and responding to GBVF.

Various stakeholders including the Government Communication and Information Systems (GCIS), the departments of Social Development, and Justice and Constitutional Development, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Batho Pele, Moswen and Women of Wisdom supported the event.

The dialogue underscored the need for continued efforts to address GBVF, with organisers urging community members to remain vigilant and report abuse to the their nearest police station or contact the 24-hour GBV Command Centre on 080 042 8428.



The community of Galeshewe who attended the event.



Advocate Mpho Tau from the NPA, encouraging witnesses to report abuse and attend related court cases.



Ms Nombulelo Mantantana from Women of Wisdom, urged government to support civil society organisations.



government  
communications

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#### Mr Brandon Mfamadi, Disabled Children Action Group:

"I learnt the significance of working together as government and civil society organisers to combat the stigma and fight this pandemic. I encourage everyone to act out there and to take a stand against GBVF."



#### Ms Nosipho Louw:

"I learnt that GBVF is a very serious problem in our country and that men and persons with disabilities can be victims too; we should always stand together to fight it."



#### Ms Mantantana, Women of Wisdom NGO:

"GBVF is very high in our country; we need to stand together and fight the scourge. Our government needs to do more to assist NGOs advocating for GBVF."

## PRIORITY 3: BUILDING A CAPABLE ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

### Matjhabeng Municipality serious about serving communities

*By Ntombi Mhlambi; GCIS, Free State*

On 7 January 2026, the Executive Mayor of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Cllr Thanduxolo Khalipha, accompanied by the Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Thabo Panyani, officially unveiled two state-of-the-art combination sewer trucks as part of ongoing efforts to address persistent sewer spillages and ageing infrastructure across the municipality.

The specialised fleet will significantly improve response times to sewer blockages, overflows and system failures; reducing disruptions for communities while helping to restore dignity and protect the environment. The trucks will be equipped with advanced camera nozzles, which will enable municipal teams to visually inspect underground sewer pipelines, detect blockages, cracks, collapses and

accurately map manholes using Google Maps – all without the need for excavation. This technology allows for quicker diagnosis and more effective maintenance planning.

To ensure maximum efficiency and safety, municipal sewer teams will undergo specialised training to operate the new equipment effectively. The residents witnessed the full operational capacity of this investment during a live demonstration of the trucks at the handover. This milestone reflects Matjhabeng Local Municipality's firm commitment to improving service delivery and building cleaner, safer and healthier communities for all.



New Matjhabeng sewer trucks.



Cllr Thanduxolo and Mr Panyani, unveiling two state-of-the-art sewer trucks.



### PRIORITY 3: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

#### Pre-SoNA taxi rank activation

By Jacob Mkhize; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The State of the Nation Address (SoNA) is an annual joint sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces called by the President to report on government's progress in ensuring economic development; unpacking achievements and challenges of the current administration; and outlining plans for the year ahead. The public is encouraged to participate in the SoNA through different social media platforms, radio or watching the proceedings on television (TV).

Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) officials conducted a pre-SoNA activation on 30 January 2026 at the Mtubatuba taxi rank to mobilise the public to provide their views of what SoNA meant to them, as well as create awareness about the date and time of the important event. The activation provided an opportunity to government to listen to people's views about the event and

to gauge how government was doing in serving communities. Information products were distributed around the Thuthuzela Care Centre and surrounding areas.

Members of the community had different views on government's performance; while others indicated that they were not aware of the SoNA, but would definitely watch TV and listen to what President Cyril Ramaphosa had to say. Others had mixed feelings – lamenting that SoNA would not make any difference in their lives – and hoped that the President would speak on the challenges they faced at ward level in various municipalities.

The SoNA will take place on Thursday, 12 January 2026 at 19:00.



GCIS officials engaging with members of the public at Mtubatuba taxi rank as part of pre-SoNA awareness.

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

#### Unity touted as a deterrent in the fight against GBVF

By Rapelang Motlagomang; GCIS, North-West

The Government Communication and Information System partnered with the South African Police Service, non-profit organisations, the Department of Social Development and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to deliver a dialogue on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). The activities formed part of national launch activities of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. Held on 25 November 2025 in Jouberton, the dialogue included a community awareness march supported by the local taxi association. Various government departments engaged community members on GBVF and pamphlets were distributed.

The keynote address was done by Colonel Selepe from the Jouberton Police Station, who said that GBVF could be conquered if society did not stay quiet when they witnessed incidents of violence perpetrated against women and children. "We are contributing to the perpetrators' wrongful behaviour by not

reporting the various incidents that happen in our presence. I know that you might be afraid of being victimised for reporting such occurrences, but crime fighting needs all of us," he said.

Ms Palesa Mpatane from the NPA, highlighted the role of the Thuthuzela Care Centres on matters related to GBVF. She encouraged the community to support one another and to report GBVF-related cases and all other crimes. "Our doors are open at the Thuthuzela Care Centre; we give support to abuse victims, and our partners are also there to ensure the journey to justice is fully achieved," she said.

Community members appreciated the information shared; with some indicating that they felt empowered and would appreciate more of such engagements in their area.



Attendees of the dialogue listening to the speakers.



The opening of the GBVF Dialogue by a pastor.