



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

MDDA calls for stronger measures to sustain and support community media

By Thulaganyo Gaserotse; GCIS, North West

The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) held its Pre-Grant Call Workshop and Governance Training programme in the North West (NW). The workshop was held from 2 to 4 June 2025 at Mmabatho Palms in Mafikeng.

Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong, delivered the keynote address and urged stakeholders to invest in the sustainability of community media to ensure the continuity of its vital role of sharing local information and promoting community engagement and empowerment programmes.

"This engagement is to reflect on the sustainability of small commercial and community media. Let us reject the idea that innovation only happens in Sandton or Stellenbosch. Innovation belongs in the streets of Schweizer-Reneke, the schools of Lichtenburg and the studios of Mmabatho," said Morolong.



Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong, addressing community media during the Pre-Grant Call Workshop and Governance Training programme in the North West.

The session focused on effective media management, highlighting the importance of strategic planning by community media houses to achieve defined goals, effectively engaging target audiences and meeting community needs. The workshop further equipped participants with practical knowledge on board governance, compliance and organisational accountability which are critical tools for sustainable media development.

The Member of the Executive Council for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Ms Bitsa Lenkopane, graced the event and re-affirmed the department's commitment to supporting community media. She emphasised the department's open-door policy and acknowledged the critical role community media played in disseminating information to grassroots communities. The MEC also encouraged media practitioners to explore opportunities that will be brought through events of the upcoming Group of Twenty (G20) Summit set to take place in the province.



MEC Lenkopane addressing community media.



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Ms Mystery Onkabetse Itumeleng
- Mafikeng FM:
“The engagement highlighted the importance of governance and understanding accountability and being transparent, especially in community media.”



Mr Katlego Mochume: Vaaltar FM:
“Community radio plays a pivotal role, especially for community members; this workshop ensured that we are equipped on how to ensure that our radio station operates efficiently and effectively.”



Katlego Mothibi - Modire FM:
“This taught me structures of how community radio works. As a presenter, these are the things I didn’t know.”

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

GCIS stakeholder session aims to educate the community of Kingsway

By Botlhokwa Nyantumba; GCIS, Gauteng

On 15 May 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) visited the Kingsway community under the City of Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality, to educate locals about government services and programmes. The session was facilitated in collaboration with the Ekurhuleni Department of Emergency and Disaster Management (EDED), the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), the National Credit Regulator (NCR), and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA).

The DEL registered the youth in attendance on the Employment Services of South Africa (ESSA) database, which matches job seekers with job opportunities and training programmes registered in the platform by recruiting employers.

The IEC encouraged the youth to take active participation in the upcoming 2026 Local Government Elections (LGE). The commission urged the youth to ensure that they registered to vote and those registered to check and update their status on the Voters' Roll to be eligible to vote next year.

The EDEM educated the community on emergency measures to avoid disasters, especially fire disasters, which are common during the winter season.

The GCIS and stakeholders will continue engaging various communities across Gauteng in an effort to spread information on available government services and programmes and how they can be accessed.



Ms Phupu Mhlala engaging community members about NCR services and educating them on credit and debt management.



Ms Nelisa Mthimunye from the IEC sharing the importance of voter registration in preparation for the 2026 LGE.



Gauteng CoGTA Community Development Worker, Ms Precious Mashabela outlining the purpose of the event to the community of Kingsway.



Ms Sarah Selolo, a Kingsway community member, getting information at the GCIS exhibition table.



Mr Kamogelo Molepo said:
"I attended the event to register on the job seekers' database and to get information from other exhibiting departments."

PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

GCIS hosts dialogue to strengthen the relationship with community media

By Lecrecia Prins; GCIS, Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), held a Community Media Dialogue on 16 May 2025, in Postmasburg under the ZF Mgcawu District. The dialogue sought to address non-compliance by some of the community media houses who fail to register their companies on the Central Supplier Database (CSD), which prevents them from doing business with government and ultimately leading to their shutdown.

The dialogue aimed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Address compliance pertaining to CSD registration by community media and adhering to legislative directives of government.
2. Address the importance of community media to forge and promote community participation, promote cultural diversity and dissemination of information.
3. To share information on how community media can attract advertisement and generate revenue.

Attendees received insightful presentations from various regulatory bodies including the National Community Radio Forum (NCRF), Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA),

SENTECH, the South African Revenue Service, and Treasury. Presentations highlighted issues of tax compliance, radio signal distribution and government financial policies.

Mr Thabang Pusoyabone, Provincial Secretary of the NCRF, said the engagement was both timely and informative. "The need for strengthening the role of community radio at this time when many radio stations are struggling to sustain themselves under the difficult economic conditions is urgent. It was necessary for stakeholders to look closely and address every challenge that stands in our way to sustainability. We must continue these types of engagements to open channels for support and ensure that community radio remains the important platform for grassroots communication and development."

The GCIS committed to engaging community media to address emerging issues.



Attendees of the Community Media Dialogue held by the GCIS.



Mr Pusoyabone, Provincial Secretary of the NCRF, giving an overview on the stance of community media in the Northern Cape.

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

Child Protection Month takes centre stage in the Cape Winelands

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

Placing focus on one of its core mandates which is child protection, the Western Cape (WC) Department of Social Development (DSD), launched the Cape Winelands Child Protection Month in Worcester on 27 May 2025. The launch highlights the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of children as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa of 1996.

It is the responsibility of government to step in and ensure the safeguarding of children who need to be placed in places of safety or Child and youth care centres when the need arises. Designated Child Protection Organisations (DCPOs) provide child protection services, and in the WC, the Department of Social Development (DSD) currently funds 107 DCPOs across the province.

The event kicked off with a relay march where various organisations and government entities passed a flaming torch from one department to the other. The march highlighted a spirit of working together in support of all children in the Cape Winelands.

DSD, Mr Jaco Londt, alongside one of the social workers of his department, joined a radio interview just after the march to highlight key messages on child protection.

Minister Londt said, "There are over 42 000 children in the foster system. These are children who have either been placed with foster parents or are in a Cluster Foster Care Scheme, which is a system where multiple foster homes are managed by a non-profit organisation registered by the provincial head of DSD to provide foster care for up to six children in a home environment."

He added that, "Every year, we see the need for child protection services growing. We need to bring back the spirit of Ubuntu in communities, where your child is my child. Our department and the DCPOs are doing incredible life-saving work to safeguard vulnerable children, but we need you, the residents, to help us. This Child Protection Month, I want to encourage people to protect children from harm and report abuse to the police or DSD," urged Minister Londt.

The proceedings were concluded with engagements with foster parents and support organisations at the Boland Park Stadium in Worcester. Key speakers included the Chief Director, Ms Annemie van Rheenen, and a representative of the Mayor of the Breede Valley Municipality.



Minister Londt delivering his keynote address during the launch of Child Protection Month in Worcester, Boland Park Stadium.



Minister Londt engaging with small children at the CPW event.



Minister Londt sharing Child Protection Day key messages during a studio interview at Valley FM.