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## PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

### Entrepreneurship and Skills Dialogue empowers women

By Noluvuyo Mangweni; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 19 August 2025, the Government Communication and Information System in collaboration with key stakeholders, held a Women Entrepreneurship and Skills Dialogue in Patensie. The session aimed to educate women about the artisan sector and inspire them to pursue opportunities in artisan-related entrepreneurship.

The dialogue opened up a platform for women to engage with stakeholders to learn about various training and funding opportunities available to support their entrepreneurial journeys.

The Eastern Cape Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges showcased a wide range of artisan training opportunities. Their presence highlighted the importance of vocational education and skills development to attain both self-employment and sustainable livelihoods.

Learners from Patensie Agricultural School also participated in the dialogue, emphasising the role of young people in shaping the future of skills development and entrepreneurship in rural communities. The discussions highlighted how access to artisan programmes and skills training can empower women, reduce unemployment and stimulate local economic growth.

Speaking at the event, stakeholders encouraged women to pursue opportunities in artisan-related sectors such as plumbing, electrical work, welding and construction, noting that these industries hold untapped potential for women entrepreneurs.

The dialogue reaffirmed government's commitment to promoting economic empowerment and inclusivity by equipping women with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed in non-traditional fields.



Officials from Buffalo City TVET College interacting with women who attended the dialogue.



Female learners from Patensie Agricultural School during the women's dialogue.



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

### G20 opens platform for youth dialogue on government services

By Morena Motlounge; GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) successfully led a two-day Group of Twenty (G20) advocacy programme targeting students from the Flavius Mareka Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, Kroonstad Campus, in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality recently.

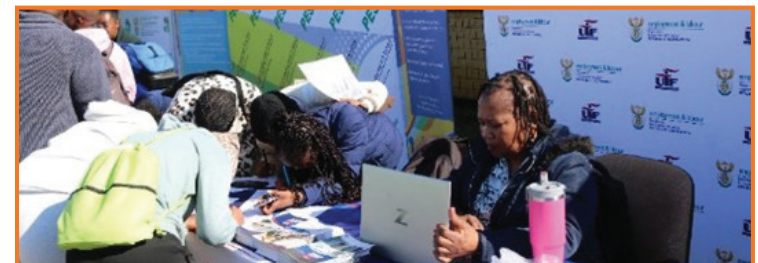
The programme was coordinated and facilitated through a partnership with the college's support services. It aimed to lobby and influence youth to participate meaningfully in the affairs of government and to hold it accountable for delivering services that are meant to empower, liberate and benefit the youth. The dialogue deliberated on the shrinking state of the economy and cost of living through open interrogation of South Africa's Presidency of the G20 and its priorities.

Several government departments, agencies and entities including different Sector Education and Training Authorities, showcased and exhibited key youth development initiatives, products, resources, services and provided information on government programmes meant to empower youth.

Other stakeholders in attendance included the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority, Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority, National Youth Development Agency, the Independent Electoral Commission, SAYouth (Harambee), and the departments of Employment and Labour and Trade Industry and Competition.



Ms Nomhle Sibanyoni administered the GCIS information stall and provided students with information on G20.



Students visiting exhibition stalls on the first day of the G20 advocacy programme.



Mr Mdeni Ndwandwe, GCIS G20 Project Leader, presenting the G20 overview and inviting students and panellists to an open dialogue on identified topics for the day.



Some of the stakeholders who took part in the programme.





**Ms Ayanda Mahlangu, Community Health Worker:**

"The event was informative and women were encouraged to stand their ground, to love and to take care of their families guard them against any form of harm and also to look after one another as community members."



**Ms Thoko Mahlangu:**

"The event was good and the information shared was a bit depressing. However, it gave us women the courage to report issues of GBVF towards female disabled people. We are grateful for what various stakeholders did for us."

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

#### **Women's Month commemoration puts the spotlight on disabled women and vulnerable groups**

*By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga*

On 21 August 2025, the Government Communication and Information System collaborated with Epilepsy South Africa, Civil Society Organisations, the South African Police Service, and the departments of Social Development and Correctional Services to conduct a dialogue session aimed at creating awareness on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) targeting disabled people and other vulnerable groups.

The session commenced with the audience watching an audio visual recording that showcased episodes portraying acts of GBVF that are committed in the community. The audience had an opportunity to submit their opinion and comments on the episodes.

The session was followed by stakeholders sharing information on the issues of GBVF while educating the audience on their rights and responsibilities in fighting the pandemic. They also shared information and contact details of various law enforcement authorities to consult when faced with such criminal acts.

The victims of GBVF were afforded a platform to share their experiences. They encouraged the community to utilise government institutions, traditional leaders, good reputable church leaders, and civil society organisations to report their cases. The session was attended by 80 people who received information material on government services.



**Attendees of the women's GBVF Dialogue held at Siyabuswa in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality.**



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

### Community imbizo stands against GBVF - Prince Alfred Hamlet

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

The Cape Winelands Women's Movement, in partnership with key stakeholders, hosted a powerful community imbizo against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). The gathering was held on 23 August 2025, with the aim of providing a platform for open dialogue, awareness and strengthened collaboration in tackling violence against women and children.

The Deputy Minister (DM) of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ), Mr Andries Nel, delivered a compelling address on the urgent need for collective action. He emphasised that GBVF was not only a criminal justice issue, but a societal crisis that undermined families, communities, and the values of dignity and equality.

"Gender-based violence is a deep wound in our society that undermines our values of dignity, equality and respect. Government, civil society, and communities must work together to break the cycle of silence, fear and abuse," said Mr Nel.

Ms Buselwa Vika of the Cape Winelands Women's Movement, stressed the importance of grassroots mobilisation in eradicating GBVF.

"As women and community leaders, we cannot stand by while our sisters, mothers and daughters suffer. The fight against GBVF starts in our homes, our schools and in our neighbourhoods. It is only when we unite across all sectors of society that real change will come," said Ms Vika.

The event brought together local leaders, faith-based organisations, youth representatives, women's groups and law enforcement agencies. Through robust discussions, participants explored the root causes of GBVF, the need for stronger community-based interventions and the importance of accessible support services for survivors.

The Cape Winelands Women's Movement reaffirmed its commitment to empowering women and ensuring safer communities, while the Witzenberg Local Municipality and government partners expressed their dedication to implementing the National Strategic Plan on GBVF.

The imbizo concluded with a resounding call to action for all sectors of society to unite in building a safer, caring, and equal South Africa where women and children can live free from violence and fear.



DM Nel receiving a briefing by various government agencies about the current GBVF situation in the Witzenberg Local Municipality.



A fully packed school hall at the St Mark's Primary School awaits presentations from various agencies and government departments.



The participating panel at the GBVF Imbizo comprising the DoJ DM, the South African Police Service Cluster Commander and the departments of Health and Social Development.