



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

Voveni community says no to GBVF

By Ndyabo Kopo; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On Friday, 21 November 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) held a community dialogue at Voveni Methodist Church to discuss ways to end gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in Voveni village, KwaBhaca. This dialogue marked the start of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign for No Violence against Women and Children, which begins on 25 November.

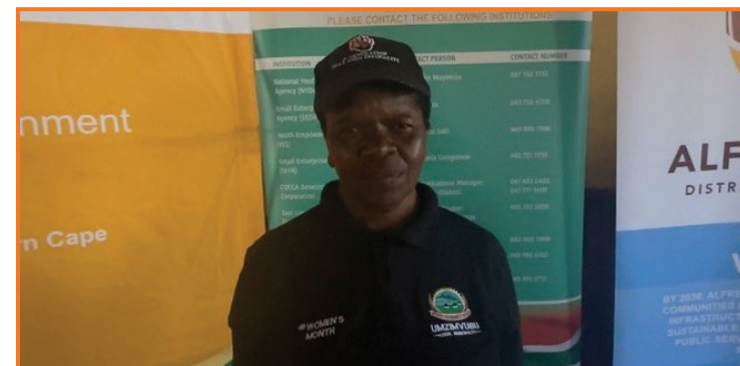
Voveni village is one of the leading villages under attack with incidents of GBVF, especially rape. GCIS partnered with the ward councillor and the ward committee of the area to organise the community dialogue in response to a concern raised by the leadership of ward 11 with the department.

The dialogue started with a symbolic street walk by participants wearing all black, from Voveni Primary School, about 3 kilometres from the venue, to signify the community's unity against the scourge of GBVF, and to also pay tribute and respect to all the victims of GBVF in their area.

The symbolic street walk culminated in a community dialogue in which community members sought solutions to make their area safer and to unite as a community, working with law enforcement. Community members engaged with experts from the Departments of Social Development, Justice and Constitutional Development, the National Prosecuting Authority, the South African Police Service, the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, the Umzimvubu Local Municipality, and the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

The outcome of the dialogue was that the community must unite to fight GBVF and crime in general in their area. The SAPS will assist the community in establishing a Community Police Forum, and the community will also advise

on what to do and what not to do to assist law enforcement in gathering evidence to achieve successful convictions. "What is making me happy about this dialogue today is the decision by the community to be united; that will assist disabled people like me also to be protected, as we are often victims of GBVF because of our situation. It was also pleasing to hear people talking about disabled people and how they need to be protected, said Ms Zille Nzimeni, a resident of Voveni.



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

SIU hosts a successful international fraud week awareness

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

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) Northern Cape hosted a successful 5 km walk on 20 November 2025 in Kimberley to commemorate International Fraud Awareness Week. The event aimed to promote fraud-prevention practices, foster an ethical culture, and reinforce a commitment to combating fraud. Key objectives included communicating prevention strategies, promoting integrity, and encouraging collective action against fraud and corruption.

The event was a collaborative effort with various organisations, including the Government Communication and Information System, Office of the Premier, Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, the HAWKS, Public

Service Commission, Department of Treasury, Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, South African Police Service, Department of Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority and Department of Health.

The event highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in building a corruption-free South Africa, emphasising the need for continued collaboration and commitment to fighting fraud and corruption.



SIU members and stakeholders in action.



SIU and stakeholders in action.



Ms Mampholo Mankaba, Blantinah Mental Health caregiver:

"I really appreciate and thank the MEC for coming to see what we are doing in the group. We hope the department will give us all the necessary support we need."

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

Bophelopele Mental Health Day Commemoration

By Nkopodi Mokgoma; GCIS Limpopo

On 27 October 2025, the Department of Health, in partnership with Sekhukhune District Municipality, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, and Rahlagane Traditional Authority, held Bophelopele Provincial World Health Commemoration Day at Moganyaka village. The event formed part of the department's broader commitment to promoting mental health awareness, reducing stigma, and strengthening community-based mental health services across the province. It was held under the theme: "Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies". The event seeks to mobilise the communities and stakeholders to recognise and take care of the people living with mental illness.

In his welcome address, Kgoshi Rahlagane Kotole appreciated the government, particularly the Department of Health, for choosing his village to commemorate the day with those special people. Advocate Nkogatse Kelly Ramothebedi, the chairperson of the Mental Health Review Board, indicated the importance of taking care of people living with mental illness.

Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for the Department of Health, Ms Dieketseng Mashego, in her keynote address, highlighted access to mental health services as follows: "In South Africa, mental health continues to be a public health priority as part of the National Mental Health Policy Framework and Strategic Plan (2023-2030)." She further said, "Matlala Hospital is currently in the process of being designated as a District Mental Health Hospital." The MEC concluded by saying that mental wellness is not a luxury but a human right.

Government departments and entities offered various services throughout the day. This did not exclude private businesses, which also took the opportunity.



MEC for Health, Ms Dieketseng Mashego, giving a keynote address.



Some of the dignitaries in attendance.



Part of the community members in attendance.



Some of the exhibitions.



Mr Nkazimulu Ngidi:
“We are happy to be here in Isipingo to showcase our work and crafts. Sijabulile kakhulu ngoba ibhizinisi lethu lizokhula.”

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

PRASA's gateway to opportunities

By Dr Vasanthi Naidoo; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 28 October 2025, the Minister of Transport, Ms Barbara Creecy, accompanied by Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Transport Mr Siboniso Duma, was welcomed by eThekweni Mayor Cllr Cyril Xaba to launch the solar-powered Durban Station before boarding the locally manufactured Train Set #300 on its maiden trip to Isipingo Station for the official opening of the Isipingo Mall.

The Minister, in her address to the community at Isipingo Mall, said that in developing the transport infrastructure within shopping malls, the government was ensuring cost-effective, safe transport and ease of access to key economic centres. Such initiatives aim to increase safety while travelling, reduce travel costs for people, and promote inclusive growth and development. She also congratulated the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) on achieving a clean audit and on its remarkable efforts to resuscitate the rail transport sector.

CEO of PRASA, Mr Hishaam Emeran, stated that the new rail infrastructure developments have resulted in approximately 80 000 direct and indirect jobs in the rail sector. He said that a 1-megawatt solar plant fully powers the Durban Station; the rail transport's integration with shopping malls ensures that the rail stations are “gateways to opportunities”, whether retail, entertainment, commercial, or government services.

eThekweni Mayor welcomed the government's commitment to resuscitate rail transport in the city, which is the most cost-effective form of transport. He further informed the communities of the city's interventions to improve the road infrastructure and alleviate traffic congestion in eThekweni. Transnet and eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality signed a memorandum of understanding for the development of the dry dock in Cato Ridge and the building of a second access road to the port. Rezoning of land to accommodate these projects has already begun.



Unveiling of the plaque at the official launch of PRASA's Renewable Energy Project at the Durban Station.



eThekweni Mayor, Cllr Cyril Xaba, and Minister Barbara Creecy are addressing the community at the launch of the Isipingo Mall.



Attendance at the official opening of the launch of Isipingo Mall.



Minister Barbara Creecy, MEC Siboniso Duma, and eThekweni Mayor, Cllr Cyril Xaba, are being briefed by PRASA's CEO, Mr Hishaam Emeran.