



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

Empowering young voices during Disability Rights Awareness Month

By Lebogang Molebatsi; GCIS, Free State

As part of Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM), the Government Communication and Information System held an impactful information session at the Leboneng Special School on 6 November 2025. The school caters for learners with various disabilities. The event created a safe and empowering platform where learners, teachers and supporting staff openly discussed issues of disability, inclusion and self-advocacy. Stakeholders including the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development; the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA); and local businesses, Transito Cash and Curry and Dumansi, supported the session. The session focused on celebrating the abilities, strengths and potential of learners with disabilities rather than viewing them as limitations. The facilitators used relatable examples, visuals and interactive discussions to help learners understand their rights, the importance of self-confidence and the value of respecting one another.

The stakeholders shared useful information on equal opportunities and accessibility, highlighting that learners with disabilities had a right to

education, participation and support according to the Constitution of South Africa of 1996. Learners were encouraged to embrace their individuality and take pride in their achievements.

Teachers and staff members were also reminded of their vital role in fostering a supportive learning environment. The session emphasised the shift from a charity perspective to a rights-based approach, where learners with disabilities participate actively in shaping their own futures.

Learners left feeling motivated, valued and inspired to continue advocating for themselves and others. The event reinforced an important message that disability is not inability. The school and partnering organisations remain committed to promoting inclusion, creating accessible learning environments and ensuring that every learner is given the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Ms Rosey Dube from the NPA educating the learners on how and where to report when faced with gender-based violence.



Mr Pitso Mereko encouraging the learners to use their skills to raise funds for the school.



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Stakeholders participating in a dance with the learners.



Lerato Mphete:

"I would like the government to help us fight parents who misuse our Disability Grant."



Thandi Mlinde:

"I am happy that we are celebrated and also treated the same as able-bodied children."



Thabo Thobatsi:

"We were educated about our disability rights and now know our rights and where to report."



Ms Elize Presence:

"Today I am very grateful because it took us years to get this office; now we can help our people because we are in the community."

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

GBVF office launch strengthens community response in Vredenburg

By Esmarelda Mckay; GCIS, Western Cape

On 25 November 2025, the Wesbank community gathered to mark a significant milestone in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), with the official launch of a new GBVF office in Louwville, Vredenburg under the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality. The event was held under the theme: "Letsema: Men, Women, Boys and Girls Working Together to End GBVF", aligning with the broader 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women And Children campaign.

The launch was warmly received by residents, who expressed gratitude to the municipality for partnering with GBVF ambassadors to bring vital services closer to the community. The new office will serve as a safe space for survivors; offering case support, referrals and awareness programmes aimed at prevention and healing.

South Africa continues to face alarming levels of GBVF; and according to recent statistics from the South African Police Service (SAPS), more than 10 500 rape cases were reported between April and June 2025, while femicide rates remained among the highest globally. Rural and semi-urban

communities such as Vredenburg, often lack accessible resources, making the establishment of local offices critical in bridging service gaps.

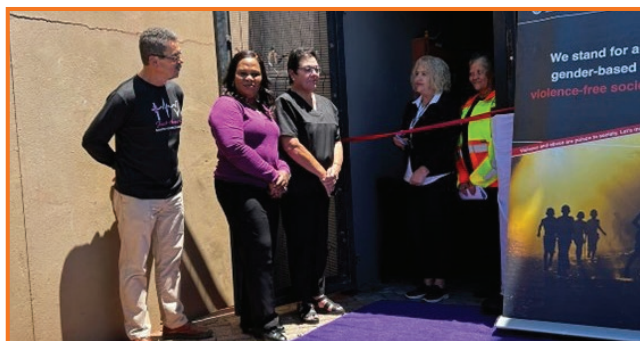
Speakers at the launch emphasised that GBVF was not only a women's issue, but a societal crisis requiring collective responsibility. The 2025 theme underscores the importance of men, women and youth working hand-in-hand to challenge harmful norms and promote safety. The office will also host workshops, dialogues and campaigns to encourage positive masculinity and community accountability.

The municipality's collaboration with GBVF ambassadors reflects a shared commitment to creating safer spaces. As one community leader noted, "Only by joining hands can we make our country safe."

The opening of the Louwville GBVF Office represents hope and progress, ensuring that survivors have access to justice and support while reinforcing the national call to end violence in all its forms.



Community members, SAPS members and different community leaders attended the launch.



The Municipal Speaker, Cllr Olwine Daniels, officially opening the office with Ms Amie Truter from Siyabonga, Eunice Adonisi and Abe Du Plessis.



Community members at the launch.

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

Launch of 16 Days of Activism sparks urgent call to end GBVF

By Khethiwe Mashigo; GCIS, Head Office

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities officially launched the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand on 25 November 2025.

The launch was anchored on the theme: “Rewriting the Script: Harnessing Film, Media and Creative Arts to Prevent GBVF”. Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga urged the media, film, advertising and entertainment sectors to use their influence wisely to reshape societal norms that tolerate gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

“Whether through drama, current affairs or advertising, this sector has the influence to flip the script to end a culture that normalises violence and replace it with one that normalises dignity, consent, care and accountability,” she remarked.

Minister Chikunga painted a sobering picture of the scope of the disaster – one in three women in South Africa has experienced physical violence.

The launch brought together government creative industry stakeholders, civil society representatives and media professionals to deliberate shifting the narrative on GBVF through content that is educational,

encourages prevention and portrays the implications of abuse. There were panel discussions on various themes.

The Minister stressed that ending GBVF was not only a matter for the government, but also a shared responsibility for families, communities, artists, storytellers and ordinary citizens alike. Minister Chikunga’s sentiments were echoed by Deputy Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Steve Letsike; and Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Andries Nel.

She challenged storytellers to “rewrite the script”; urging editors, producers, writers and creators to prioritise stories that respect dignity, consent and healthy relationships, rather than sensationalising violence. Her message was clear: “If we change what we make, we will change what we mirror and what we become.”

The 2025 campaign is observed under the theme: “Letsema: Men, Women, Boys and Girls Working Together to End GBVF”.



Deputy Minister Letsike delivers the opening remarks at the launch of the 16 Days of Activism of No Violence Against Women and Children.



Minister Chikunga calls for the media and creatives to assist in the fight against GBVF.



The launch of the 16 Days Of No Violence Against Women and Children campaign held at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Gauteng.

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

Using community media to enlighten communities around Waterberg

By Maria Ramoshaba; GCIS, Limpopo

On 7 November 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) organised a roundtable community media engagement in the Waterberg District aimed at capacitating print and electronic community media houses on complying with regulations. This move will ensure that they continue receiving government support.

In her presentation, Ms Madire Mokitla from the GCIS highlighted that radio was still one of many platforms used by government to disseminate information. Currently, there are only two radio stations complying with the Central Supplier Database (CSD) around Waterberg District, namely Mokopane and Waterberg Stereo; other community radio stations have closed down due to governance issues.

Ms Shoki Moloi from the Limpopo Provincial Treasury encouraged the media houses to comply and encouraged them to reach out to their offices to be assisted to register on the CSD.

Mr Martin Lebotse from Moutse FM shared some best practices on community radio management and urged media houses to take issues of compliance seriously. He stated that if they were tax compliant and met Independent Communications Authority of South Africa licence requirements, their community radio stations would contribute to a thriving community. "Station management is not part-time; they should be fully committed to managing the station," he said.

Moutse FM owns the building from where it broadcasts, which comprises of four studios and generates funds through advertising.



Mr Lebotse shares best practices with the media from the Waterberg District.



Mr Naphtali Thloale from Mookgophong emphasised that they supported the media houses around the municipality.



Representatives from media houses discuss issues of compliance during the roundtable session.



Discussions around issues of compliance taking place during the session.