



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

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

State of the Nation Address public education

By Mpho More, Tesah Gavhi, and Moleboheng; GCIS, Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted pre-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) activations and public education sessions at the Pniel Service Centre in the Frances Baard District.

The events brought together various government departments and stakeholders to engage directly with community members. They provided information about the SoNA, the services offered by their respective departments, and how residents can access these services. Departments and stakeholders in attendance included the Department of Health (DoH), Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Legal Aid South Africa, the Office of the Public Protector, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the South African Police Service and a non-governmental organisation, Women of Wisdom.

In his keynote address, Ward 8 Cllr, Mr Soul Blom, outlined the successes and challenges faced by the local community. He highlighted the provision of land to the DoH for the construction of a clinic that will bring healthcare services closer to residents.

The sessions aimed to empower residents with knowledge, encourage active participation in national processes, and ensure that communities such as Pniel are informed and engaged ahead of key government announcements.

The pre-SoNA outreach forms part of broader efforts to promote transparency, public participation, and inclusive development across South Africa.



Stakeholders engaging with the community about the SoNA.



government communications

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Ms Eva Ntwe of Barkley West SAPS CPF:

“As a member of the Community Police Forum, I hope the President will introduce measures to help us better protect ourselves as we fight crime in the community. If I were the President, I would ensure that older persons are prioritised and cared for, as they are vulnerable.”



Mr Alfunzo Motheise, Youth Against Crime representative:

“I am requesting the President to address the scourge of violence and crime. I also hope that our initiative, which aims to eradicate crime within communities, will receive adequate support.”



Mr John Slinger:

“I hope the President’s speech can touch on better basic services for all especially for the community of Pniel. As I am speaking now, I live in a mud house. I hope the president in the future will build houses for us.”

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

Driving economic growth and strengthening infrastructure

By: Mlungisi Dlamini; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 19 February 2026, the uMgungundlovu District Mayor, Cllr Mzi Zuma, participated in a post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) radio interview to reflect on President Cyril Ramaphosa's address delivered on 12 February 2026. During the interview, the Mayor outlined the district's key economic drivers aimed at accelerating economic growth and creating sustainable employment opportunities, particularly for the youth.

Among the priority development projects he outlined were:

- The expansion of Brookside Mall
- The Impendle Small Town Development Programme
- The establishment of timber-processing plants in Richmond and uMshwathi
- The proposed Heineken brewery earmarked for the Mkhambathini Local Municipality.

These initiatives are expected to stimulate local investment, support the Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises and boost job creation across the district.

Addressing the persistent water challenges, Cllr Zuma indicated that the strain on the system stems from ageing infrastructure and increased migration from rural areas to urban areas. While a significant portion of the district's budget has been allocated to upgrading and maintaining water infrastructure, an estimated R10 billion is required to fully overhaul the ageing system and ensure reliable water provision for all communities.

Cllr Zuma further emphasised that agriculture remains the backbone of the district's economy across all seven local municipalities. He stressed the importance of municipalities working collectively to create an enabling environment for private-sector investment, which is essential for strengthening the local economy and expanding employment opportunities.

He added that robust public-private collaboration is also crucial in addressing challenges facing the agricultural sector, including the ongoing foot-and-mouth disease outbreak.



uMgungundlovu Mayor says:
 "Collaborations are vital in creating an environment in which the private sector can confidently invest, operate and grow. An estimated R10 billion is required to comprehensively overhaul the ageing system and ensure reliable water provision to all communities within the district."



Cllr Zuma also highlighted that priority projects currently under focus include the expansion of Brookside Mall and the Impendle Small Town Development Programme.

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

Community and youth engage in SoNA dialogue

By Esmarelda Mckay; GCIS, Western Cape

On 12 February 2026, a two-part public engagement programme was held to unpack and discuss the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) with both community members and learners. The first session took place at the George Kurrige Community Hall, where residents gathered to share their views, expectations and concerns. The discussion created an open platform for honest dialogue on current challenges and opportunities highlighted in the address.

The programme then proceeded to Western High School, where a leadership-focused conversation was facilitated with learners. This session encouraged young people to reflect on leadership, active citizenship, and the role of youth participation in shaping local development. Learners engaged meaningfully,

raising practical questions and sharing their perspectives on service delivery, accountability and future opportunities.

Feedback from both the community and youth reflected mixed emotions regarding SoNA, a blend of hope and frustration. Many expressed hope for improved conditions, expanded opportunities, and responsive governance, while others raised concerns about the pace of change and persistent local challenges.

Despite the mixed sentiments, the overall tone of the engagements was constructive. As government, we remain committed to listening, strengthening partnerships and improving communication. We are hopeful that this year will yield tangible results and measurable impact as we work to translate commitments into real progress for communities.



Stakeholders who led the conversations included Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and ELRU.



The IEC facilitated on-site registration and verification for community members who attended the programme.



The two-day discussions concluded with the Western High Girl Leader group. It was encouraging and insightful to hear their perspectives and aspirations.



Ms Enicia Raats:

"I really want the President to focus on removing the red tape for youth who have just matriculated. The job-experience requirement is preventing them from getting jobs."



Ms Ongizwa Maqwathi:

"I am hoping we will receive good news regarding youth unemployment."



Mr Tata Mayizo Leda:

"I am really hoping that my child will find work. He studied, but is now sitting at home. The foreign people come and take all the jobs."

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

Community support helps Dzata Secondary School improve matric results

By Doctrine Netshikweta; GCIS, Limpopo

Since the Vhutuwangadzebu community began supporting the management of Dzata Secondary School, the school's academic results have improved significantly. This initiative was introduced to address the school's previously poor performance and to encourage both learners and educators to strive for excellence.

On 30 January 2026, various community structures, including the Government Communication and Information System, the Nzhelele Parliamentary Constituency Office and the Makhado Local Municipality, visited Dzata Secondary School as part of the community's annual programme to support the school. Ward Cllr, Stanley Dzhivhuwo led the delegation.

For the 2025 matric results, the school achieved the second-best performance in producing quality bachelor passes. During the back-to-school campaign, community representatives welcomed the Grade 12 learners, outlined the school's goals and community expectations and offered words of motivation.

Cllr Dzhivhuwo also encouraged the learners by highlighting the availability of bursaries for high achieving students who wish to further their studies.



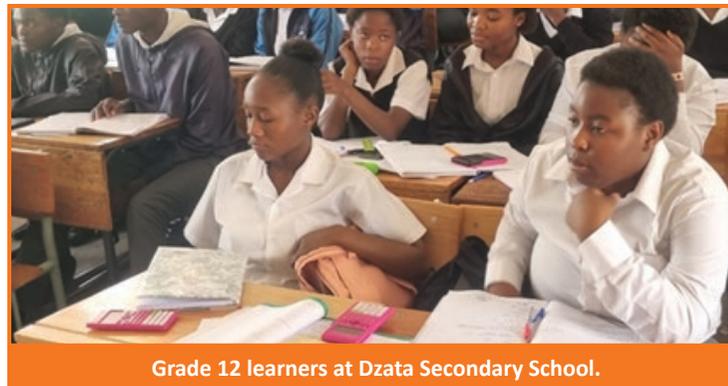
Grade 12 learner Mukhethwa Fhedzi:

"Representing all Grade 12 learners, I want to assure everyone that the matric class of 2026 is going to make history and take the first position in the province."

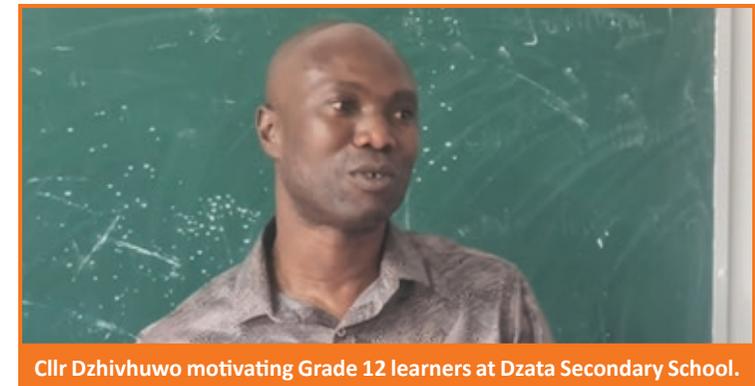


Headman David Mavhunga representing Thovhele Vho-Mphephu:

"Charity begins at home; hence, we are committed to supporting and motivating these learners as the traditional authority. It takes a village to raise a child."



Grade 12 learners at Dzata Secondary School.



Cllr Dzhivhuwo motivating Grade 12 learners at Dzata Secondary School.