



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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

Deputy Minister hands over school shoes in Taung and Mamusa

By Rapelang Motlagomang; GCIS, North West

On 13 March 2026, the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong, handed over 440 pairs of school shoes to learners from nine schools in the Greater Taung and Mamusa Local Municipalities in Schweizer-Reneke. The initiative forms part of ongoing government efforts to ensure that learners from rural communities did not miss school due to a lack of proper footwear.

In addition to the school shoes, principals from the nine schools each received three laptops to support them in carrying out their administrative duties more efficiently.

The Deputy Minister paid tribute to the two retiring principals, acknowledging their years of selflessness and unwavering dedication to ensuring that learners received quality education. "It is through recognising such selfless service that we strengthen the values of respect, gratitude and unity in our society," said Morolong.

Encouraging learners to take pride in their education, the Deputy Minister urged them to walk into their classrooms with confidence knowing that "their future is bigger than the street they walk on today. He added: "Without a doubt, one of you receiving shoes today will one day stand here as a doctor, a teacher, a leader or a scientist. Perhaps you will tell your own story about how a simple pair of school shoes helped you walk towards your future."

He also thanked KPMG, Infrastructure South Africa, Brand South Africa and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme for partnering with government to make the event possible. He emphasised that the collaboration demonstrated what could be achieved when stakeholders work together with a shared purpose.



Deputy Minister Morolong handing over school shoes to one of the nine schools.



Deputy Minister Morolong addressing guests during the handover ceremony.



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

Nationwide commemoration of World Water Day 2026

By Mpho More, Tesah Gavhi and Amogelang Moholoeng; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 22 March 2026, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Northern Cape, handed over the newly refurbished wastewater pump station and an outfall line stretching from Jan Kemp Dorp to Phokwane Local Municipality. The handover formed part of the annual World Water Day commemoration.

Delivering his keynote address, the Phokwane Municipality Mayor, Cllr Willem Harmse, urged the community to safeguard public infrastructure. "These assets belongs to you as the community of Valspan, and you ought to take care of them. If you see anybody vandalising the infrastructure, it is upon you to report it," said Harmse. He expressed appreciation to the DWS for making funding available and appealed for additional support to extend sanitation services to other communities in need within the municipality.

The municipality's sanitation infrastructure underwent emergency refurbishment and an upgrade valued at more than R55 million through the

DWS Water Services Infrastructure Grant. The programme aims to relieve sewage spillages affecting the environment, improve sanitation services for a population of over 8 300 and more than 2 000 households and support future developments in the area.

The scope of work included constructing a new pump station and rising mainline with adequate capacity to manage current and future sewer runoff. The upgraded infrastructure was then connected to the existing reticulation network to ensure optimal functionality and reduce blockages.

In marking World Water Day, the department hosts various service delivery activities, with the handover being part of them. The day highlights the importance of protecting freshwater resources, addressing the global water crisis, and advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: which aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.



Mayor of Phokwane Municipality, Cllr Harmse, together with stakeholders during the walkabout.



Cllr Harmse cutting the ribbon, signifying access to the refurbished wastewater pump station.

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

Community of uMhlathuze engages on the SoNA and Budget Speech

By Nontuthuko Ngubane; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 26 February 2026, the community of Ward 27 in Ngwelezane, under the uMhlathuze Local Municipality, participated in an outreach dialogue aimed at providing information on the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) and Budget Speech.

President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the SoNA on 12 February 2026, followed by the Budget Speech delivered by Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana on 25 February 2026.

During the dialogue, national priorities were unpacked to explain what they meant for the local community. The municipality, together with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and other departments, provided various government and non-government services to ensure that communities do not have to travel long distances to access essential services. The GCIS-led dialogue highlighted key announcements on service delivery, jobs, safety and development; while also creating a platform for community members to raise questions and share practical ideas.

The engagement provided an opportunity to reflect on national priorities and align them with local needs. Discussions focused on how the national plans outlined in the SoNA and Budget Speech impacted the uMhlathuze community. Participants also shared concerns, ideas and solutions aimed at strengthening development in the area.

Community members appreciated the information and engaged openly on issues raised in the speeches. Ms Bavumile Dladla, a community member, expressed her gratitude and said she would pass on the information to her children. “We are from rural areas, and sometimes when the President or the Ministers speak, the messages go over our heads. We rely on our children to explain the speeches, and sometimes they do not watch them, so we miss out on important information. These community engagements empower us as senior citizens,” said Dladla.



The community of uMhlathuze gathered to receive information on the SoNA, Budget Speech and local service delivery.

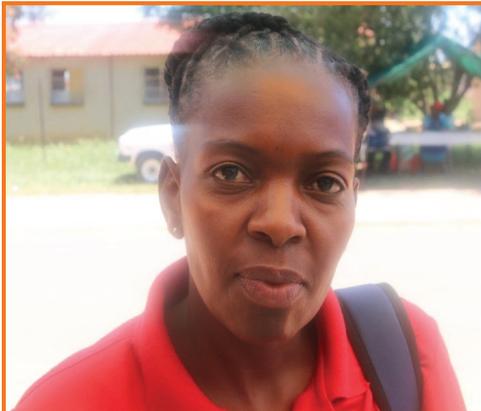


GCIS official, Ms Nontuthuko Ngubane, providing information during the post-SoNA dialogue.



GCIS KZN conducted a comprehensive community outreach campaign to raise awareness and educate the public about the SoNA.

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



Ms Thobekile Mathebula said:
 "I am glad for the project as it will make life easier for the women at Indlu Yokuthula Service Centre. They will be able to run their project without worrying about the inconsistent water supply and high water bills."



Ms Gogo Tadi Masango said:
 "The borehole is going to solve our problems. We have been struggling without water, and as you know, water is life. We wash, we drink, we cook and irrigate with water. Siyabonga kakhulu!"

Turning the tide on water scarcity in Bronkhorstspuit

By Robbie Senoelo; GCIS, Gauteng

Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pemmy Majodina, officiated the handover of a newly completed borehole at Sokhulumi Village in Bronkhorstspuit, Tshwane, on 6 March 2026.

The handover ceremony, held at the Indlu Yokuthula Service Centre was observed under the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) International Women's Day 2026 Ministerial Engagement and the Water Month Flagship Programme.

The City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality also handed over newly drilled boreholes to communities in the area as part of ongoing efforts to improve water access and alleviate water scarcity. These interventions support broader government initiatives aimed at strengthening water supply reliability and addressing the persistent challenges faced by the region.

"The intervention is part of the government's ongoing commitment to expanding reliable access to water and advancing women's empowerment through sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives. This milestone not only improves local water access, but it also serves as a strategic platform

to mobilise support for the Sector-Wide Women in Water Programmatic Approach 2026 - 2030. The framework seeks to strengthen gender mainstreaming across the water and sanitation sector while promoting women leadership, skills development, entrepreneurship and economic participation," the department said.

Delivering the State of the Nation Address in February, President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasised that water remained one of South Africa's most pressing concerns – from large cities such as Johannesburg to smaller towns like Knysna and rural areas such as Giyani.

The President further announced the establishment of a National Water Crisis Committee, which he will personally chair as government intensifies efforts to tackle South Africa's deepening water challenges. The programme also aligns with the 2026 United Nations World Water Day theme: "Water and Gender", with the slogan "Where Water Flows, Equality Grows". The theme calls on governments globally to centre women and girls in water-related solutions, ensuring their voices, leadership and agency are fully recognised in water decision-making.



Water and Sanitation Minister launching the borehole project in Sokhulumi, Bronkhorstspuit.



Chief Mkhambi Petrus Mahlangu of the Amandebele Ndzudza Sokhulumi Traditional Council tasting the water.



Chief Mahlangu's entourage inspecting the borehole project.