



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

### Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality residents hope for a solutions-based SoNA

*By Rapelang Motlagomang; GCIS, North West*

In a collaborative effort to ensure that South Africans are aware of government's plans and priorities, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in North West conducted awareness campaigns for the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) between 4 and 6 February 2025, within various local municipalities under the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality. The campaigns were undertaken through partnerships with the North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Community Development Workers (CDWs), Community Policing Forum and community patrollers, and they took place in the form of street and taxi rank activations, as well as door-to-door.

The GCIS interacted with community members, who indicated that they were excited to hear what President Cyril Ramaphosa would talk about. They indicated that they hoped the speech would introduce tangible solutions to the high unemployment rate in the country. The youth in the community hoped that challenges with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) could be sorted out to ensure that most of them could further their

studies. Some community members indicated that they struggled with lack of water for the longest time, and expressed hope that the President would address this.

Ms Sinawo Mangqukela, a student from Vuselela Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, said that she was excited about the SoNA, as she had high hopes that the President would address NSFAS challenges. "I would like the President to increase student funding through NSFAS. He must also consider creating jobs and cutting the R350 grant, as it creates dependency on the state." She continued that she would appreciate it if President Ramaphosa took the nation into confidence regarding the United States of America's termination of foreign aid to South Africa.

The general public mood from the activations indicated that South Africans believed that the SoNA would address the various challenges they faced daily.



Ms Mathapelo Mothibedi from CoGTA sharing SoNA flyers with students from Vuselela TVET College in Klerksdorp.



Ms Kgabisang Mothupi from CoGTA hands a SoNA flyer to a community member in Lebaleng township.



CDWs from the JB Marks Local Municipality sharing SoNA leaflets with community members in Ventersdorp.



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**Mr Molebogeng Sebaleno**  
– City of Matlosana Local Municipality:

“Youth unemployment is high and I would like the President to improve on it. He must also address the hospital systems and the Department of Home Affairs, as many people queue for long hours for services.”



**Ms Dineo Ngwanang**  
– Maquassi Hills Local Municipality:

“We got the message of the SoNA; we would like the President to ensure that youth development centres are fully functional. This will assist in curbing the high crime rate within our communities.”



**Mr Edward Mashomo**  
– Maquassi Hills Local Municipality:

“I would like the President to empower the municipality with more funds so that they can create more employment for the people. This will assist the municipality, as more people will be able to pay rates and taxes.”

**PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

**National Treasury Director-General engages with learners in Cape Town**

*By Dumisane Mahlangu; GCIS, Western Cape*

The National Treasury and the South African Reserve Bank led the first Group of Twenty (G20) Finance Track at the Cape Town International Conference Centre in Cape Town on 26 February 2025. The meeting focused on fostering global economic stability, enhancing international financial cooperation and addressing pressing global challenges.

Dr Duncan Pieterse, Director-General (DG) in the National Treasury and other officials, embarked on a G20 outreach to Harold Cressy High School in District Six to educate learners about South Africa's G20 Presidency.

The DG's interaction with the learners forms part of government's efforts to ensure that all South Africans understand the significance of the G20 and participate in the various engagements which will be held throughout the year.

The school's principal, Mr Khalied Isaacs, extended a warm welcome to the officials in a hall filled with learners waiting to hear the DG's speech. It was a very interesting engagement, as the learners were also afforded an opportunity to ask questions.

South Africa assumed Presidency of the G20 on 1 December 2024, under the theme, "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" and will hand over to the United States of America in December 2025.



Harold Cressy High School learners at the G20 Summit outreach.



Dr Pieterse addressing the learners on South Africa's G20 Presidency.



Harold Cressy High School Principal, Mr Isaacs with Dr Pieterse.



Dr Pieterse at the Harold Cressy High School in District Six.



**Mr William Motshoeneng, Makabelane Technical School Principal:**

“This is one moment that will be enshrined in the books of history, in a sense that we are privileged that today, as a school, we have an opportunity to host the Deputy Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Having him visit us to ensure that government rallies behind schools in ensuring the 2025 academic year unfolds as expected is inspiring.”

### PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

#### Deputy Minister in The Presidency visits TVET colleges

*By Mmapeneng Lekitlane; GCIS, Free State*

On 25 and 26 February 2025, Deputy Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Seiso Mohai, embarked on a Back-to-School campaign as part of the District Development Model. He was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana District, Cllr Connie Msibi; Executive Mayor of Maluti-A-Phofung, Cllr Malekula Melato; and Free State Department of Education District Director, Ms Lindiwe Mabaso. The Deputy Minister visited Makabelane Technical School, Thiboloha Special School, Maluti Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Kwetlisong campus, University of the Free State and Maluti TVET Sefikeng campus in QwaQwa.

The visit aimed to assess school readiness and address any challenges that may hinder teaching and learning, and to ensure that schools across various quintiles were prepared for the academic year. Mr Mohai emphasised the importance of TVET institutions in preparing South Africa's workforce for the future, while also stating that the future of the South African economy lay with the colleges, as they guaranteed that graduates were prepared for the workforce and capable of making significant contributions to a variety of industries by giving them skills closely related to industry demands.

The necessity of closer ties between TVET institutions, universities and industry, was a central focus of the Deputy Minister's speech. He emphasised the importance of agriculture to the Free State's economy and the need to solve food security issues by modernising farming methods through improved vocational training, pointing out that modern businesses were using cutting-edge technologies rather than conventional heavy machinery. “The workplace has evolved; in order to be relevant, TVET colleges need to stay up to date with the many sectors that today rely on computer-based processes,” he said.

The Deputy Minister also conducted an oversight visit to the Maluti-a-Phofung Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to assess its role in job creation and economic growth. He also engaged with the SEZ management on employment opportunities and infrastructure, including the zone's economic impact, infrastructure projects and strategies for business growth and job creation.



The Premier of the Free State, Ms Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae, addressing the audience at the Career Development Expo in Zamdela.



Free State Member of the Executive Council for Education, Dr Mamiki Maboya, outlining the purpose of the career expo and how it aimed to benefit and address unemployment in the district.



Deputy Minister Mohai and Cllr Melato visited one of the factories within the Maluti SEZ.



Deputy Minister Mohai, with the management of Maluti TVET College, addressing agriculture students at the Sefikeng campus.



**Fortune Mamadisha:**

“I have learnt that it is not good to commit a crime; when one has friends, one must always live well with others instead of bullying them.”



**Bonolo Mampane:**

“I have learnt that bullying is not good because it might lead to other learners not wanting to come to school and also that abusing drugs can be dangerous to our health and to the community.”

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Food safety and post-SoNA campaign in Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality

By Reki Skosana; Gcis, Mpumalanga

On 11 February 2025, the Government Communication and Information System collaborated with the departments of Social Development (DSD), Basic Education, Health (DoH), Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, the Local Drug Action Committee, South African Police Service (SAPS) and the local Community Policing Forum to create awareness on food safety and unpack issues of basic education as delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa in the 2025 State of the Nation Address (SoNA).

An ex-convict from the local community engaged the learners on issues of crime, to which the learners and school management responded positively,

expressing their gratitude to government for encouraging them and coming to their area to share important information. Government information material on SoNA, food safety tips, bullying, gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) and anti-corruption was distributed.

Officials from the DSD shared information on the dangers of substance abuse, the DoH shared insights into issues of teenage pregnancy and prevention, and the SAPS educated learners on issues of GBVF. The event was successful as the school community was excited about the empowering messages shared with them.



Food safety and post-SoNA activation at Hlalakahle High School in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality.