

ISSUE 14 | MARCH 2025

Delivering
Optimism &
Worth

FOR YOU



THE VALUE OF INTEGRITY: TO BE HONEST AND DO THE RIGHT THING

POCS CHRYSALIS
ACADEMY CELEBRATES
25TH ANNIVERSARY

DOTP ADVANCING DATA
GOVERNANCE THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS

WCED CELEBRATES
THE NATIONAL SENIOR
CERTIFICATE AWARDS



STATE OF THE PROVINCE

ADDRESS 2025

IT'S TIME TO STEP UP



Ed's Note

ANSWERING THE PREMIER'S CALL FOR 2025

Our **State of the Province 2025** took place in February in Beaufort West, where Premier Alan Winde called on us, as a province, to “Make 2025 the year we all step up!”

Addressing the members of government, residents and all that benefit from our beautiful province, this call to action speaks to us stepping up for ourselves, and each other, to make the Western Cape better for everyone. The Premier's call also perfectly aligns with the WCG value that is intertwined throughout the articles of this March issue: INTEGRITY - We are honest and do the right thing.

This **FOR YOU** also reflects our latest **Provincial Strategic Plan (PSP)** for 2025 to 2030. The PSP is the result of our engagement with residents and community. It aims to build a government you can trust – one that makes a real difference in your daily life.

We kick off this issue, the last of the financial quarter, with our State of the Province Address on **page 6**, where Premier Winde outlined the Western Cape's key priorities for the year ahead, focusing on economic growth, job creation, safety, and service delivery.

This is followed by a breakdown summary of the Provincial Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030 (**page 8**), highlighting the Western Cape Government's vision and key priorities for the next five years, focusing on economic growth, job creation, safety, well-being, and service excellence to build a resilient, inclusive, and thriving province for all.

The Department of the Premier's Provincial Data Office focuses on Advancing Data Governance Through Partnerships on **page 12**. And, the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety celebrates 25 years of their Chrysalis Academy (**page 14**).

The Academy has been a pioneering youth development programmes in the province since 2020, equipping young people with essential life skills, leadership training, and personal development opportunities to help them become positive role models and active contributors to their communities. On the topic of youth, our regular #FORYOUTH section (**page 16**) once again shows us how young people are key drivers of innovation, resilience, and social change.

The Chief Directorate: Organisational Development (Department of the Premier) reveals the plan for our WCG Culture Journey for 2025 on **page 26**. The Western Cape Education Department once again proudly hosted the National Senior Certificate Awards (**page 34**) and we shed light on an important health epidemic with World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on **page 36**.

We hope this March issue of **FOR YOU** inspires you to step up, embrace integrity, and contribute to building a Western Cape we can all be proud of.

Let's make 2025 the year of action, accountability, and positive change—together. Enjoy the read!

Mishqa Rossier
Editor



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COVER: "It's Time to Step Up" – Premier Winde implored us to step up and work tirelessly to take our province to new heights, as well as embed the WCG value of INTEGRITY in everything we do!



DG's Letter

I hope that you were all watching when the Premier delivered his State of the Province Address (SOPA) in Beaufort West on 26 February. (The speech is available on the WCG website.) The Premier's refrain in the speech, "Step Up", came from a beautiful song performed on the occasion by Zolani Mahola and Aaron Halevi. The Premier called on leadership across government and society to "step up" for ourselves and for each other.

The Premier reflected on the challenges that we have overcome over the past five years, including a funding shortfall, a water crisis, a global pandemic, electricity outages and fires. He said that the Western Cape Government (WCG) and the people of the Western Cape have always responded to the call, and demonstrated that "we can adapt, innovate and respond, no matter the crisis."

The Premier also touched on the way in which we ought to engage our residents, listening with compassion and responding with humanity; taking personal responsibility—whether it's picking up litter or tackling big policy challenges; and holding spaces for difficult conversations without inflaming divisions.

The Premier was optimistic about the Government of National Unity and said that it brought new opportunities and gave people reason to feel hopeful again. Collaboration is key to sustained economic growth, he said. The hosting of the G20, The Regional Leaders Summit and Inaugural Investment Summit bring opportunities for the province to "amplify our voice".

The Premier outlined the many achievements recorded by the WCG in the past year, in helping businesses to grow and create jobs, and equipping residents to secure those jobs; educating our future workforce; providing health care for residents; building hope through infrastructure investment; making the Western Cape safe for its residents; creating a future-fit province; and providing reliable, affordable and renewable energy and water.

The Provincial Strategic Plan 2025-2030 (PSP), tabled in Parliament to coincide with the SOPA on 26 February, contains four portfolios that shape and guide the actions of all Departments: Growth for Jobs, Safety; an Educated, Healthy and Caring Society; and Innovation, Culture and Governance. The PSP is a people-centric plan which drives our efforts to fulfil the WCG Vision to build a government that people trust.

Government's promise to the people is that we are a government of integrity, excellence and opportunity. We take time to listen, and we respond with honesty. We create hope and instill dignity, because we build safer communities and drive economic growth and jobs. We do this so that people can live lives that they value.

We aspire to live our Values – Caring, Competence, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation, and Responsiveness – in everything we do. The WCG would like to make the Western Cape a place of optimism where people recognise their own worth.

We can all feel proud to be employed by the WCG, where every employee makes an important contribution, in particular about the way we deliver services. However, many challenges lie ahead. We must all heed the Premier's call to "step up", to build a better province. ●



Premier's Letter

In the first Western Cape Government Cabinet meeting of 2025, I told our provincial Ministers that we must all work even harder in 2025 to build on the past year's achievements.

I implored my Cabinet to step up, to work tirelessly to take our province to new heights.

We are under no illusion that, given the stubborn challenges that confront our province and country, this will not be easy. But we owe it to the residents of the Western Cape to step up and strive to do even more with less. I am also deeply conscious that this puts additional strain on all of us and once again thank you for the many hours of extra work you have put in.

We must do our work by embedding integrity in everything we do. And we have also entrenched this value, along with the others, in our Provincial Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

The PSP's goals are straightforward: to help our residents to live their lives with dignity. This means helping businesses and the private sector to grow our economy and create many more jobs.

This was one of the key themes and messages of the 2025 State of the Province Address as well as the need for us all to step up this year to ensure our remarkable province and its residents can realise their full potential.

A key aspect of integrity is admitting that we can also do better and must always strive to do more. We all make mistakes. This is part of being human. But to own up to and admit to your mistakes takes courage.

Far too often in our country, some will refuse to acknowledge where they have erred, instead allowing their pride to take over, in many cases to the detriment of the people they are meant to serve.

In the Western Cape Government, we work incredibly hard to earn the trust of our residents. One way in which we do this is by embedding good governance across our government, demonstrating fiscal discipline in our spending which is aimed at improving services and how we govern.

Underscoring our deep commitment to clean governance is a culture of integrity. Integrity is the foundation from which we build up trust between us and our residents. It has been famously said that integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Integrity comes naturally to our government because of our efforts over the years to ensure we put our residents first.

This key value is enshrined not just in our everyday work but in the policies, plans, strategies and programmes we implement.

As we forge ahead, I implore our Western Cape Government family to keep up the good work and to find ways to double down in taking our province to new heights.

Our singular focus for the next five years is clear: we will do everything we can to help businesses drive economic growth so that they create more jobs, so that you our residents can get those jobs.

This commitment is encapsulated in our [Provincial Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030](#) and is aligned to the national Medium-Term Development Plan, which will guide our work over the next term. ●

"I implored my Cabinet to step up, to work tirelessly to take our province to new heights."

Inside Info

OUR FESTIVE PIC WINNERS!

In last issue of FOR YOU, we asked you to send in your most brilliant, scenic, funny or interesting photos that you have taken over the festive season.

We have 20 winners who have each won a laptop bag or travel mug. A big appreciation and thanks goes out to all the entrants!



1 WINNERS!

- Darren Lee** - Directorate: Municipal Governance, Department of Local Government
- Gerard van Weele** - Climate Change Directorate, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
- Helena van Aarde** - Environmental Officer: Specialised Production, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
- Jacques Williams** - CD: Connect Government and Infrastructure Services, Department Of Premier
- Adrian M Dombas** - Directorate: Regional & Schools ICT Support, Department of the Premier
- Nusrat Jackobs**- Departmental Strategy, Department of the Premier
- Shelton K Cottee** - General & Paediatric Ward, Department of Health and Wellness
- Ismail Achmat** - Assurance Services, Department of Provincial Treasury
- Jason Truter** - GISc Professional, Department of Infrastructure
- Mandilakhe Mdekazi**; Revenue Analysis Research & Modelling, Provincial Treasury
- Aqeelah Jacobs** - ICT Service Management, Department Of Premier
- Anél Potgieter** - Occupational Therapist, Western Cape Education Department
- Justine Hicks** - HR & General Support, Department of Infrastructure
- Fikile Gosa** - isiXhosa: Language Services, Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport
- Luke Moolman** - CRC, Department of Health and Wellness
- Kay-Lynn Hill** - Western Cape Archives and Records Service, Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport
- Denise Duminy** - Personal Assistant, Department of the Premier
- Sinalo Mapoko** - Directorate: Community Police Relations, Police Oversight and Community Safety
- Róchelle Snyman** - Sub-Directorate: Patient Fees: Compliance Auditing and Training, Department of Health and Wellness
- Naadia Ismail** - Director: Strategic and Operational Management Support, Provincial Treasury

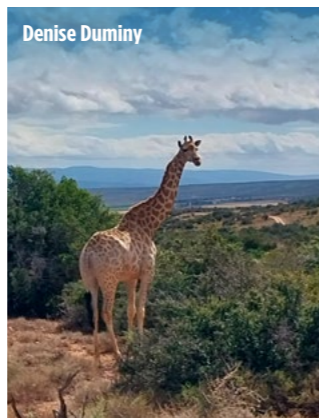
All winners have been contacted.



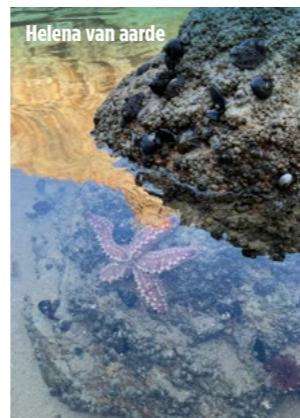
Anel Potgieter



Darren Lee



Denise Duminy



Helena van aarde



Jacques Williams



Naadia Ismail



Aqeelah Jacobs



Samantha Burger



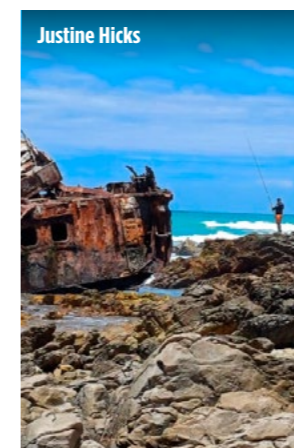
Gerard Van Weele



Jason Truter



Ismail Achmat



Justine Hicks



Shelton K Cottee

2 THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In a powerful display of leadership and solidarity, our Department of Health and Wellness (WCGHW) took a significant step in combating gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) by launching its official GBVF Pledge on 28 November 2024.

The event was marked by the lighting of candles in remembrance of GBVF victims, honouring and mourning those who have suffered from violence. This initiative is part of the department's broader strategy to foster safer, more supportive environments within healthcare settings and beyond.

Dr. Keith Cloete, Head of the WCGHW, led the call to action, alongside the department's management team, signing the virtual pledge in a powerful gesture of solidarity. The pledge commits staff to deliver compassionate, person-centred care and to take action within their professional spheres to address the impact of GBVF. It is available in Afrikaans, IsiXhosa, and English ensuring accessibility to all employees within the department.

In addition to the virtual pledge, a significant highlight of the campaign took place at Valkenberg Hospital, where a GBVF Walk was organised to raise awareness about the ongoing crisis of gender-based violence in the community. The walk, led by the hospital's CEO Charlyn Goliath and HR Manager Pumeza Kana, gathered DOHW staff, DotP Human Rights representative and NPOs in a show of unity and commitment to combating GBVF.

The GBVF Walk at Valkenberg Hospital was more than just a symbolic gesture, it was a tangible demonstration of the hospital's active involvement in addressing gender-based violence. The walk encouraged participants to reflect on the impact of GBVF, share messages of hope and solidarity, and engage in conversations about the role healthcare workers can play in supporting survivors and raising awareness.

The initiative was part of a broader range of interventions, including Harassment Awareness and Gender-Based Violence Awareness Sessions, which were held to educate employees on how to better identify, respond to, and support victims of GBVF.

The department also hosted an LGBTQI+ Awareness Session, encouraging respectful conversations on gender identity and sexual orientation and a Human Trafficking Awareness Session to equip staff with the knowledge to identify and report victims of trafficking, an issue often linked to GBVF.

Mrs Bernadette Arries, Chief Director: People Management, emphasized the importance of these actions saying, "The GBVF Pledge is a commitment to stand with those affected by gender-based violence and to continue working toward creating environments where people feel safe and supported. The GBVF Walk at Valkenberg Hospital is an important step in translating this commitment into action and raising awareness about the urgent need to address this crisis."

The department's efforts were not limited to the 16 Days of Activism campaign but will continue throughout the year with ongoing awareness and support initiatives for both employees and the broader community.

For more information on the GBVF Pledge and the department's awareness efforts, contact Sub Directorate Employee Health and Wellness, Diversity and Disability on Diversity.Health@westerncape.gov.za

IT'S TIME TO STEP UP

THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS (SOPA) WAS DELIVERED BY PREMIER ALAN WINDE AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT ON 26 FEBRUARY 2025

Delivered from the NG Church Hall in Beaufort West, the Premier called on residents and leadership within the Western Cape to ensure 2025 is the year we all step up.

He reflected on the province's ability to overcome significant challenges in recent years, including a funding shortfall, a water crisis, and the aftermath of the global pandemic.

BELOW: Premier seen addressing the SOPA attendees at the NG Church Hall with WCPP Speaker Daylin Mitchell, WCPP Secretary Romeo Adams and Parliamentary Support Services Lubabalo Stemele

Below is an excerpt from the address. **View the full speech [here](#).**

"For the past five years each time I have delivered this annual address we have faced major challenges. Whether it was a funding shortfall, a water crisis, or a global pandemic; time and again we have been called to step up. But we have also proven – beyond any doubt – that we can adapt, innovate and respond, no matter the crisis.

Each of these moments and many more forced us to find new solutions, and today, I am proud to stand here and say that we have:

- partnered with municipalities and the private sector that will add 5,700 MW of affordable, reliable renewable energy to the grid by 2035.
- expanded our law enforcement and traffic efforts by deploying more officers and K-9 units to make our communities safer.
- built schools in less than 100 days.

HELPING BUSINESSES GROW AND CREATE JOBS - EQUIPPING YOU TO GET THOSE JOBS

Our singular focus for the next five years is clear: we will do everything we can to help businesses drive economic growth so that they create more jobs so that you our residents can get those jobs.

More people can find a job in the Western Cape than anywhere else in the country. For the last half of 2024 our employment rate was below 20% at 19,6%. The Western Cape now leads on all four employment metrics that Statistics South Africa measures quarterly.

In just the last few months, another 62,000 jobs – almost half of the 132 000 jobs created nationally – have been in the Western Cape. We now have:

- South Africa's highest Absorption Rate at 55.2%, meaning more people looking for work are successfully finding jobs.
- The highest Labour Force Participation Rate at 68.7%, showing our economy's growing ability to absorb new jobseekers.

EDUCATING OUR FUTURE WORKFORCE

Our matric class of 2024 excelled with a pass rate of 86.6%, a 5.1 percentage point increase on last year, as well as the highest pass rate ever for the Western Cape.

The province's bachelor's pass rate, which is a crucial indicator of the quality of matric passes, has also increased by 5.6 percentage points to 47.8%.

We are incredibly proud that our province's matrics achieved the top Mathematics and Physical Science pass rates again this year, with a Mathematics pass rate of 78.0%, and Physical Science pass rate of 79.4%. Our candidates achieved our highest number of subject distinctions to date, with 11,699 candidates achieving a total of 27,948 distinctions. This is the second-highest distinctions rate nationally.

We also have the second-highest pass



LEFT: Premier enjoyed meeting and chatting to Beaufort West residents and business owners, even getting his hair trimmed by Vukile Mpame, who owns Koko, a local barber shop



rate in the country for Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN) at 91.0%, and the highest bachelor's pass rate in the country for LSEN learners at 63.3%.

A SAFE PROVINCE IS A PROSPEROUS PROVINCE

For communities to thrive, and for our economy to grow, residents, business owners, and investors must feel safe.

In August last year, we took a significant step forward in our fight against crime by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Western Cape Government, City of Cape Town, and national government. This agreement has ensured closer collaboration, better use of resources and a shared focus on data and evidence in policing.

This MoU reflects the urgency that is needed to tackle rising crime. It is also a realisation that there is the need for policing to be decentralised to allow more stakeholders to have a say in how we collectively address this scourge.

Our Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP), managed in partnership with the City of Cape Town, is just one example of what can be achieved when different spheres of

government cooperate.

Our LEAP members have been incredibly busy making 12,074 arrests in 2024 alone. Last year more than 740 firearms were taken off the streets of Cape Town. Since LEAP's inception, 40,065 arrests have been made and more than 740 firearms have been taken off the streets of Cape Town.

STEP UP FOR OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER

We have all worked with the residents of this province to make the Western Cape the remarkable region that it is. In 2025 all of us must step up for ourselves and each other.

Many of our officials tell me of the pressures they are under, but they often say to me, "We do this because we care, and we support one another".

Our peoples' needs, their aspirations, and expectations are at the heart of everything that our government does.

In the year ahead, every single day we have a choice, we can choose to be negative, break down, fight among ourselves or we can choose to step up, be constructive, to build a better province.

This year let us all make a choice to step up to build a better Western Cape."

This year let us all make a choice to step up to build a better Western Cape.

PSP 2025-2030: An integrated, resident-centric plan

ON 26 FEBRUARY 2025, PREMIER ALAN WINDE ANNOUNCED THE PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLAN (PSP) 2025-2030 DURING THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS IN BEAUFORT WEST, CENTRAL KAROO

The PSP is our high-level roadmap, guiding every Western Cape Government department and their planning over the next five years. Rooted in our promise – to be a government of integrity, excellence, and opportunity, listening and responding honestly so that people can live lives they value – the PSP focuses on impact for residents at all stages of life.

GROWING THE ECONOMY, EQUIPPING OUR RESIDENTS

Helping businesses grow and create jobs, and equipping residents to get those jobs, is the apex priority of the PSP, recognising that a thriving economy is the foundation for individual wellbeing, stable households, and effective service delivery. By prioritising economic growth and job creation, the PSP seeks to build resilient, stable communities and broaden opportunities for residents to participate meaningfully in the economy.

Crucially, our apex priority also focuses on equipping residents to successfully take up these opportunities. By providing targeted support at every stage of life – from early childhood education to skills training and



lifelong learning – the PSP ensures individuals are prepared not only to enter the job market but also to adapt and thrive.

A RESIDENT-CENTRIC PLAN

Central to delivering on these commitments is the PSP's resident-centric approach, built around the question, "What do residents need to progress and thrive at each stage of their lives?" This question underscores the strategic shift from merely delivering services to delivering meaningful impacts tailored to residents' evolving needs.

The PSP's Integration Model, visually represented below, maps out the resident's journey from early childhood to older years. It clearly demonstrates how interconnected government services like education, health, infrastructure, economic support, and community safety collectively ensure timely and appropriate support for every resident.



INTEGRATED IMPACT AREAS: A FRAMEWORK FOR COORDINATED ACTION

Guiding the PSP's coordinated action are four Integrated Impact Areas within the life course, each designed to drive comprehensive development and enhance resident wellbeing:

- 1. Households and Human Development:** This area ensures families and individuals achieve economic stability, have access to high-quality services, stable housing, and meaningful opportunities, thereby enabling a life of dignity.
- 2. Cohesive Communities:** The PSP emphasises creating inclusive, supportive, and secure communities that nurture residents and foster strong social bonds, significantly enhancing community resilience and safety.
- 3. Youth Agency and Preparedness:** Recognising youth as key drivers of future development, this area concentrates on equipping young people with the skills, confidence, and opportunities necessary to participate actively in economic and civic life.
- 4. Economic and Growth Opportunities:** Aiming for robust and sustainable economic growth, this area highlights strategies for increased investment, entrepreneurship, export growth, and technological innovation, benefiting all residents.

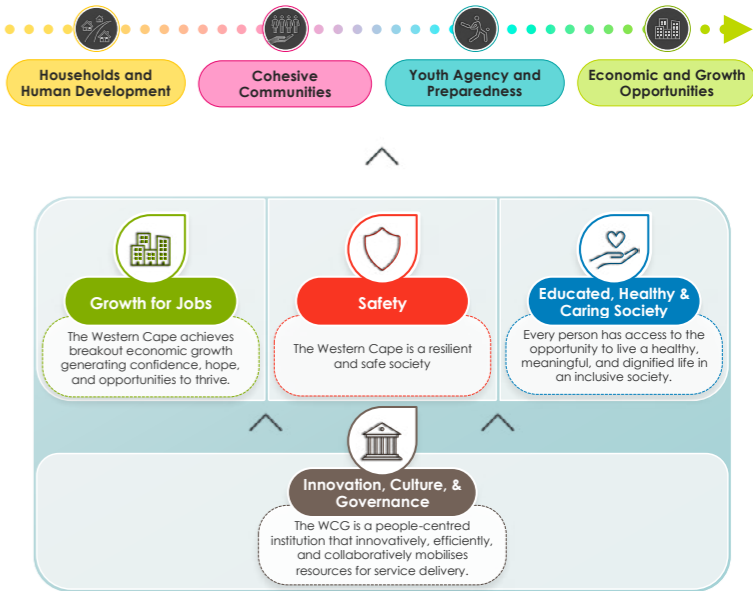
Two transversal impact areas cut across the life course and support integrated planning and delivery. These transversal impact areas—**Spatial Transformation, Infrastructure, and Mobility** and **Resource Resilience**—address the structural and environmental factors shaping service delivery. Cutting across the life course and integrated impact areas, the transversal impact areas ensure access to essential systems and resources.

STRATEGIC PORTFOLIOS: ENGINES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT

The integrated impact outlined in the PSP is realised through the four strategic portfolios introduced in the 2019-24 term. Each portfolio is carefully structured to drive specific focus areas and deliver outcomes essential for sustainable growth and development:

- **Growth for Jobs:** Focused on expanding opportunities, investment, and access to markets, securing water and energy, harnessing tech and innovation, and ensuring infrastructure investment supports connectivity and growth.
- **Safety:** Focused on preventing violence, building safe and secure communities and infrastructure, and ensuring effective and responsive law enforcement.

HELPING BUSINESSES GROW AND CREATE JOBS EQUIPPING YOU TO GET THOSE JOBS



- **Educated, Healthy & Caring Society:** Focused on increasing the wellbeing of children, adults, and older persons, and increasing youth resilience and their civic, educational, and economic participation. This is supported by a focus on spatial transformation and social infrastructure, optimising the health of people, animals, and ecosystems, and an effective approach to disaster management.
- **Innovation, Culture & Governance:** Focused on an innovative, transparent, efficient, and responsible administration, driven by robust systems, forward-looking technology and planning, and sound governance to uphold trust and deliver quality services.

A key innovation within this PSP is the clear alignment of each departmental strategic plan to the focus area outcomes of the PSP. This approach enhances coordination, ensuring collective, integrated action and measurable impact.

DEVELOPED COLLABORATIVELY, READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The PSP was crafted through extensive consultations across the WCG, with municipalities, and residents from both urban and rural areas, ensuring the plan authentically addresses the diverse needs across the Western Cape. With these insights embedded, departments are already expected to align current and upcoming programmes, projects, and budgets with the PSP framework. Every Western Cape Government employee has an essential role in bringing the PSP's vision to life from day one.

A SHARED COMMITMENT

The PSP 2025-2030 embodies our collective dedication to enhancing lives across the Western Cape. Through clear purpose and aligned action, we will build a resilient, prosperous, and inclusive province where everyone can live a life they truly value.

"The PSP 2025-2030 embodies our collective dedication to enhancing lives across the Western Cape."

Our Moment on the Global Stage

As South Africa prepares to take centre stage by hosting the G20 presidency in 2025, the Western Cape is strategically positioned to facilitate a series of pivotal summits and meetings. This significant event presents an extraordinary opportunity for the province to enhance its international investment allure, boost tourism, and elevate its global reputation.

The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an international forum comprising the world's major economies, which together represent around 80% of global GDP and two-thirds of the global population. This group addresses critical issues related to economic stability, trade, development, and financial regulation. For South Africa, hosting the G20 in 2025 presents a significant opportunity to influence global policy discussions, enhance its international profile, and showcase its economic potential. Notably, the African Union will also participate this year, emphasising the importance of African perspectives in global dialogues.

The theme for South Africa's G20 Presidency is "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability," which will guide the priorities of the Working Groups in both the Sherpa and Finance Tracks and inform the High-Level Deliverables.

The Western Cape is set to be the focus of several meetings and events, with the highly anticipated G20 Finance Track meetings taking place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). Additionally, G20 Working Group meetings for critical topics like Anti-Corruption, Development, and Agriculture, among others, will be hosted across various locations in the Western Cape.

In addition to the G20, the B20 (Business 20) serves as the official engagement group for the private sector within the G20 framework, representing



Rashid Toefy, Deputy Director-General for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism

the interests of businesses globally and providing crucial input on economic policy discussions. In South Africa, the B20 plays a pivotal role by facilitating dialogue among business leaders to address key issues pertaining to trade, investment, job creation, and sustainable development. It operates through various streams, including Employment and Education, Digital Economy, Trade and Investment, Finance, and Infrastructure, focusing on collaborative solutions that promote economic growth. The relevance of the B20 to the G20 lies in its ability to ensure

that the perspectives and insights of the business community are integrated into the broader policy discussions at the G20 summits, ultimately shaping actionable outcomes that contribute to global economic well-being and stability.

While the main B20 Summit is set to take place in Johannesburg in November 2025, Cape Town hosted a highly successful B20 Launch event to much acclaim, reinforcing the city's role as a business and investment hub.

MAXIMISING ECONOMIC AND TOURISM POTENTIAL

To ensure a smooth experience for delegates and stakeholders, the Western Cape Government (WCG) has established a Coordinating Committee, akin to the FIFA World Cup Local Organising Committee structure, led by Rashid Toefy, Deputy Director-General for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

The Committee's areas of focus include communications, venue finding and meeting support, tourism and hospitality support, diplomacy and protocol support, transport and logistics, and disaster management, safety, and security. Participating departments and organisations include the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the Department of the Premier (International Relations and Protocol Teams), the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, the Department of Mobility, the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Ministry of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, Wesgro, the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre, and Airports Company South Africa.

Notably, Cape Town International Airport has introduced special border management control, customs, and protocol arrangements, including fast-track immigration services and VIP lounges for G20 participants.

To capitalise on the expected influx of international visitors, the WCG is collaborating with the local tourism and hospitality sector and the City of Cape Town to highlight the province's unique attractions. Delegates will also participate in visits to iconic sites such as Table Mountain and Robben Island, accompanied by curated cultural experiences. Local

artisans and businesses will be given a platform to showcase their products and offerings at summit venues.

THE WESTERN CAPE AS AN INVESTMENT READY DESTINATION

A pivotal initiative aligned with the G20 is the Western Cape Investment Summit, scheduled for November 2025. This event, aims to attract both domestic and international investors, with an ambitious goal of securing R1 billion in investments across key sectors, including renewable energy, ICT, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. The Investment Summit corresponds with the biennial Regional Leaders Summit, which the Western Cape is hosting in 2025, a gathering of the six members of the Regional Leaders Forum - several of the most economic productive regions in the world, including Bavaria (Germany), Upper Austria (Austria), Québec (Canada), São Paulo (Brazil), Shandong (Peoples' Republic of China), Georgia (USA) and the Western Cape (South Africa).

The Investment Summit and Regional Leaders Summit will serve as dynamic platforms for business-to-business and business-to-government engagements, site visits to investment-ready projects, and high-level discussions focused on economic growth. Premier Alan Winde, alongside influential industry leaders, will lead this initiative, reinforcing the Province's status as a compelling investment destination.

A YEAR OF GLOBAL INFLUENCE

As South Africa's G20 presidency acts as a catalyst for change, the Western Cape is poised for a transformative year ahead. Hosting these esteemed global gatherings will not only enhance the province's international stature but also lay the groundwork for enduring economic growth and job creation in line with its Growth for Jobs strategy. These gatherings will also showcase our world-class infrastructure, business-friendly environment, and vibrant culture.  **G20 SOUTH AFRICA 2025**

"Hosting the G20 presidency in 2025 presents an extraordinary opportunity for the Western Cape to enhance its international investment allure and boost tourism."

Advancing Data Governance Through Partnerships

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN FOSTERING AN INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT ACROSS THE WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT (WCG), WHERE PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY IN EMBEDDING INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE THAT ADVANCE THE WCG'S VISION: "A GOVERNMENT THAT PEOPLE TRUST".

- 1. Dr Zeenat Ishmail delivering the welcome message at the TEN conference, Cape Town, November 2024
- 2. Western Cape Government with participants at the TEN conference

Images courtesy of Pan-African Collective for Evidence



This article highlights key data and evidence collaborations with PDO stakeholders since the inception of PDO, aimed at institutionalising data governance and evidence-based practices.

Our **global partnerships and forums** include collaborations with the Pan-African Collective for Evidence (PACE) and the African Center for Equitable Development (ACED).

Aligned with PACE's work in building a sustainable network for African-led evidence brokering and evidence use in policymaking, and ACED's work in evidence generation and translation to drive equitable development across Africa, our collaboration on the Transforming Evidence Network (TEN) 2024 conference provided the platform to showcase our evidence methods and tools while advancing global conversations on data governance and evidence practices.

Building on relationships with the Regional Leaders' Summit, a capacity-building initiative with the Government of Bavaria provided a platform to showcase our role in shaping data governance practices in the WCG. Our International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) partnership focuses on enhancing knowledge of evidence methods and practices, as well as promoting the use of the 3ie portal to improve access to evidence.

At the **regional level**, we are part of the Africa Evidence Network (AEN), a pan-African community that promotes evidence-informed decision-making in their work aimed at reducing poverty and inequality in Africa.

This partnership is strengthened through the annual Africa Evidence Week, where we engage with other regional partners to exchange knowledge and best practices. Our regional collaboration with PACE includes our work on the Responsive Evidence System for African Policy needs (REAP) initiative which focuses on nurturing responsive evidence services via capacity building and establishing communities of evidence practices.

Additionally, through partnerships with PACE and the AEN, we have worked on evidence-informed decision-making practices and monitoring and evaluation systems with

regional governments, including Cameroon, in collaboration with eBASE, and Ghana, as facilitated by a local partner - Twende Mbele.

Nationally, we have collaborated with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in enhancing government performance systems for the Medium-Term Development Plan, and our efforts with Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) focused on advancing the National Statistical System.

We facilitated a session for the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) sharing insights and lessons from three evaluations conducted in the local municipalities of Hessequa, Saldanha Bay and Mossel Bay with WCG and municipal stakeholders. Our partnership with Offices of the Premiers of Mpumalanga and Limpopo focused on operationalising research initiatives and knowledge management processes.



At the TEN 2024 conference, we contributed to the showcase and discussions on spatial data tools and technologies in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and GeoTerra Image (GTI).

On the **local front**, PDO's convening of data governance forums such as the PDF, which consists of Provincial Data Champions, continue to facilitate discussions on data governance and showcase various data initiatives.

The Evaluation Research Technical Working Group (ERTWG) brought together monitoring and evaluation stakeholders from various departments with a focus on evaluation and evidence methods, while the Western Cape Spatial Information Forum (WCSIF) serves as a platform for uniting spatial information stakeholders and practitioners across the three spheres of government.

The PDO and PACE are currently exploring the concept of data storytelling through the lens of art and recently visited the Artscape Theatre to ignite our thinking and learnings on women, youth and persons with disabilities.

In the coming five years, our partnerships and forums will continue to focus on enhancing cross-sector collaborations towards



streamlining an interconnected data ecosystem that is responsive to the provincial strategic priorities and the broader development agenda.

If you are interested in partnering with the PDO or engaging further on these initiatives, please contact pdo@westerncape.gov.za

3. Government of Ghana visiting the WCG, February 2024

4. Collaboration workshop with DPME on enhancing government performance systems on the Medium-Term Development Plan, October 2024

5. Statistician-General of South Africa Mr Risenga Maluleke handing over the Western Cape Census 2022 results to Premier Alan Winde

6. Benchmarking session with the Offices of the Premiers in Mpumalanga and Limpopo at WCG, December 2024

7. Provincial Data Forum

8. PDO and PACE visit to the Artscape Theatre, February 2025

Image 6 courtesy of the Artscape Theatre

In supporting the WCG's innovation, culture and governance journey, the PDO continues to spearhead transformative initiatives by leading in data coordination through partnerships built on sound data governance practices.

Celebrating 25 Years of Chrysalis Academy

FROM ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN 2000, THE CHRYSALIS ACADEMY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY WORKING WITH YOUTH THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE TO HELP THEM DEEPEN THEIR RESILIENCE, AND BECOME CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY



ABOVE: Cherzelle Gabriel (who is a teacher assistant provided by Peak Performance Consulting) with student Nikilita Xotongo in the computer skills lab

TOP RIGHT: Chrysalis staff proudly pose for the 25-year anniversary pic. From left to right: George van Der Berg, Keagan Varries (EPWP intern), Germaine Williams, Karabo Khechane, Shafieka Anderson, Yanga Linganis, Berenick Kearns, Chrizelda Tolo, Deon Esau, Neil Roman, Nadeema Isaacs, Anville van Wyk

Recognised as a global leader in holistic youth development, the academy aims to provide a platform for youth to unleash their potential through mental, physical, emotional and spiritual development. This in turn enables our province's youth to be role models and agents of positive change in their communities.

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (POCS) is the main funder and strategic partner of the Chrysalis Academy. The majority of youth who enter the Chrysalis Academy's doors are not in employment, education or training. This makes them very susceptible to what can be described as anti-social influences.

However, once youth are meaningfully engaged, they develop and grow even beyond their own expectations and are capable of contributing directly to keeping communities safe. This year, the Chrysalis Academy celebrates 25 years of positive and holistic youth development.

WHERE CHRYSALIS BEGAN

The former Minister of Community Safety, Mr Mark Wiley, had a vision to prevent crime by addressing the underlying issues faced by young people – rather than merely responding to its consequences – through sustained youth development and transformation. This vision came to fruition through Cabinet approving and implementing

the Chrysalis Academy 25 years ago.

This marked a significant milestone in youth empowerment throughout the province. The academy represented a significant shift from the punitive approaches that characterised the pre-1994 era, focusing instead on nurturing potential and fostering holistic development amongst youth.

Over its 25 years of operation, the Chrysalis Academy had a profound impact on more than 15,000 young individuals. Central to its mission is a comprehensive curriculum designed to support holistic youth development.

The academy employs a transformative programme that guides students through four distinct phases: *Orientation, Outdoor, Skills, and Community*. Each phase encourages deep self-reflection and healing, allowing students to explore their identities and undergo significant personal transformation. The metaphor of the “Chrysalis” aptly symbolises this journey of growth and renewal.

While the programme is fully structured and regimented, it is importantly not characterised as militaristic. Many graduates have discerned their calling within South African Law Enforcement agencies, community development, and social services.

This impact extends beyond the immediate participants; it spans generations, with many children of former students enrolling at the Chrysalis Academy themselves, motivated by the potential and passion ignited in their parents.

INSPIRING HOPE

The Minister for Police Oversight and Community Safety, Anroux Marais said, “The remarkable transformation of youth completing the Chrysalis academy’s programme, inspires hope in a society plagued by social ills.”

As the Academy celebrates this remarkable 25-year journey, it aims to honour its graduates by sharing their inspiring stories and experiences throughout the year. Plans for a publication will reflect the rich history of transformation that has unfolded under the majestic Constantiaberg Mountain, where the academy’s legacy is deeply rooted. In June of this year, Chrysalis Academy will celebrate



its 25th anniversary with an official ceremony that brings together current and former staff and the wider Chrysalis community. This event aims to honour the Academy’s achievements over the past quarter-century and recognise the contributions of those who have played a vital role in its development. Attendees can look forward to a day of reflection, celebration, and connection. To further commemorate this milestone, the Academy will host a 10km run, celebrating

the foundational fitness programme that is integral to the daily routine of its students.

The 25-Year Celebration of the Chrysalis Academy not only marks the achievements of the past, but also reaffirms its commitment to empowering the youth of today and tomorrow. Through sharing stories, celebrating accomplishments, and fostering a spirit of community, the Academy continues to stand as a beacon of hope, transformation, and integrity in the Western Cape.



ABOVE LEFT: Long-standing academy staff members George Van der Berg, Neil Roman, and Anville van Wyk have dedicated the most years to the institution

ABOVE RIGHT: Students Bulelani Njikazi and Jamen Pieterse in the Basic Cookery class in the Training Kitchen

#FOR YOUTH

CONNECTING YOUTH TO OPPORTUNITIES

Young people are key drivers of innovation, resilience, and social change. Across the Western Cape, thousands of youth are actively participating in initiatives designed to equip them with the skills, opportunities, and support they need to build meaningful futures.

Through strategic partnerships, targeted programmes, and an unwavering commitment to youth development, the **Western Cape Government (WCG)** continues to play a crucial role in shaping pathways to success. **#ForYouth** is a dedicated space to share updates on our collective efforts to support young people. In this issue, we're introducing a refreshed approach that provides deeper insight into the human impact of our programmes, key developments, and the milestones achieved in our youth-focused initiatives.

✓ **Human Impact Story: Sakhi Khaya's Journey** – A firsthand look at how one of our youth programme participants has transformed challenges into opportunities and is now making a tangible difference in their community.

✓ **WCG Youth Programme Updates** – A snapshot of key youth development initiatives, upcoming opportunities, and progress across our various interventions.

✓ **What's Next?** – Upcoming events, key moments to look forward to, and ways in which departments, partners, and stakeholders can continue to support youth development.

Every investment in youth is an investment in the future of the Western Cape. By working together, we can ensure that more young people have access to skills, mentorship, and opportunities that set them on a path to long-term success.



FROM THE STREETS OF LANGA TO THE DRIVER'S SEAT OF INSPIRATION

IN THE HEART OF LANGA TOWNSHIP, WHERE THE REALITY OF POVERTY, VIOLENCE, AND LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES ARE PART OF DAILY LIFE, **SAKHI KHAYA BALISO** EMERGED AS A ROLE MODEL OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE. A PROUD AND STRONG ISIXHOSA MAN, SAKHI KHAYA'S JOURNEY REFLECTS HIS DEDICATION NOT ONLY TO HIS OWN SUCCESS BUT TO UPLIFTING OTHERS WITHIN HIS COMMUNITY.

Growing up with his younger sister, Sakhi Khaya's life was marked by hardship and resilience. He frequently witnessed his father's struggles with alcoholism, which often led to difficulties at home. Yet, amidst these challenges, Sakhi Khaya took on the role of a pillar of strength for his family. He devoted himself to keeping his sister focused on her high school studies and supporting his mother. He was committed to staying clear of the many traps that often challenge progress in communities like his.

His journey took a pivotal turn when he joined the YearBeyond Scouting in Schools programme as a YeBoneer. This role allowed him to not only run after school programmes but also instill in learners the values of scouting and the significance of the outdoors. Mentorship played a critical role in this part of his journey. Ongeza, who held the role before him, became a guiding light, providing advice, encouragement, and a source of strength.

Reflecting on his journey, Sakhi Khaya remembers both the challenges and the rewards—the rigorous training, the first stipend, his expectations versus reality, and the relationships built along the way. It wasn't always easy, as he juggled studying for his sports science degree, and saving his stipend to achieve

FOR YOUTH

his long-term goal of getting a Code 14 licence. Each step was a testament to his goal-oriented mindset and his commitment to self-improvement. For Sakhi Khaya, YearBeyond was not only about personal growth; it also brought much-needed financial independence. He became a source of support for his family, providing stability in ways he hadn't before.

A New Chapter with Golden Arrow and a Leap of Faith

He pursued various career opportunities, working as a sports coach at a school in Claremont and ultimately joining Golden Arrow as a bus driver after completing rigorous training at their Academy. This role not only provided him with stable employment but also a sense of accomplishment.

But Sakhi's ambitions didn't end there—he began driving for Uber in his free time, getting him one step closer to buying his own car which he now uses as his own Uber car, using it as a stepping stone toward his long-term dream of owning a transport company.

He recently moved from Langa to Eerste River, taking another step in his journey of growth and independence laughing as he says ... "I'm growing I can't stay where I was."

"Every step, even driving a bus, brings me closer to my bigger goals. I want to build something that supports others and inspires young people from Langa and beyond to dream bigger."



Lessons and Advice for Aspiring Youth

For young people, Sakhi Khaya's advice is clear: *"Believe in yourself, stay focused, and don't let your circumstances define you."* He emphasises the importance of mentorship and surrounding oneself with positive influences, underscoring how YearBeyond has been a life-changing experience for him.

To funders and policymakers, he offers a powerful message: *"Programmes like YearBeyond are essential for communities like mine. They provide young people with the tools to succeed and become leaders."* His story stands as a testament to the power of support, resilience, and the belief that even the most challenging circumstances can be overcome.

ACTIVITIES & UPDATES



"The Seamstress Learner Programme has demonstrated significant positive impact since its inception."

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM | DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The DHW and DEDAT's Seamstress Learner Programme has afforded ten (10) unemployed youth inclusive of public TVET graduates to be placed at the Central Laundry services at Lentegeur and Tygerberg Hospital from December 2024.

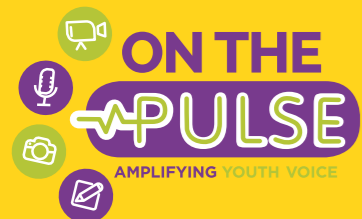
DEDAT has partnered with various private sector partners to also support the placement of unemployed youth to gain workplace experience and skills in the clothing and textile sector which supports the youth to improve their employability and assisting businesses to access the appropriate skills to support economic growth in the province. The need to increase access for students and graduates to gain practical workplace exposure is essential to help address youth unemployment and ensure employers can access the relevant skills needed.

"The Seamstress Learner Programme has demonstrated significant positive impact since its inception. The mending of over 3500 linen items has resulted in substantial cost savings and ensured the continued availability of essential items for patient care. The Programme's success highlights the value of on-the-job training and the contribution of the learners to the efficient operation of the Laundry Services. Further evaluation of the long-term impact of the Programme, including skills development, would be beneficial to the Department."

The youth can access the relevant practical hands-on experience coupled with mentoring and upskilling through their placement that will help to improve their skills proficiency for these critical skills required to support this key growth sector in the province.

This collaboration highlights the importance of encouraging "every workplace to be a training space" demonstrating the Western Cape Government's commitment to also open their workplaces and partner our public post-schooling institutions inclusive of the public TVET colleges in the province to help identify the demand-led occupational skills required, provide the relevant hands-on practical exposure help improve their skill proficiency, work readiness and overall employability that support the G4J strategic imperatives to open up access to more pathways to economic opportunities.

FOR YOUTH



YOUTH INSIGHTS AND STORIES

Keep your eyes, fingers and ears
#OnThePulse

OnThePulse is a collaborative multimedia initiative by Chrysalis Academy and YearBeyond, designed to amplify youth voices and community stories. Launched last year, this dynamic platform gives young people a space to share their insights, hopes, and dreams across various media channels. At its heart is a powerful podcast that dives into personal growth, societal shifts,

and the challenges and triumphs shaping today's youth. With expert insights, relatable stories, and thought-provoking conversations, you can keep your ear **#OnThePulse** and stay connected to the voices driving change.



You can listen to the podcast on Spotify here: **[LISTEN NOW](#)**



DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY VISITS YEARBEYOND LIBRARY PROGRAMME AT DELFT LIBRARY

"We want to partner with organisations like YearBeyond because of their passion for service... it is the only way to change the narrative around young people."

—Nonceba Mhlauli, Deputy Minister in the Presidency

Libraries are more than just spaces filled with books—they are gateways to opportunity, learning, and community connection.

This World Read Aloud Day, we welcomed Nonceba Mhlauli, the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, to one of our YeBo library sites in Delf. Current and alumni YeBoneers celebrated the transformative power of youth-led service in building a culture of reading and driving social change.

Through the YearBeyond Libraries Programme, young South Africans are stepping up as Library Champions, leading reading sessions, supporting library operations, and transforming libraries into vibrant hubs of engagement. Thanks to the active support of DCAS and Municipal Library Services, YearBeyond has expanded from six to 242 libraries in the Western Cape in just four years.



EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH HANDS-ON BRICKLAYING TRAINING

Fifteen unemployed youth are building a solid foundation through an innovative accredited bricklaying training programme conducted on an active construction site that started in January 2025. The Department of Infrastructure partnering with private and public sector namely CoroBrik, NHBRC and SA Youth.Mobi youth to place and train learners on the Conradie Park construction site, provides learners with both theoretical knowledge and practical experience. Mobile sites serve as a training ground the on Conradie site where participants refine their skills before transitioning to full experiential training on-site. Certificates will be handed over in February / March at the Conradie site, to 27 participants who successfully completed the programme in January 2025.

Spanning two intakes over the past few months this programme is more than just training—it's a pathway to employment, equipping young people with industry-relevant skills to thrive in the construction sector.



SOUTH AFRICA'S KHO-KHO STARS SHINE AT THE 2025 KHO-KHO WORLD CUP

The 2025 Kho-Kho World Cup in India saw South Africa's Sinesipho Jalumpu and Linathi Pikoko make history as part of the national team that reached the semi-finals. Their journey from MOD Centres in the Western Cape to the international stage has been nothing short of inspirational.

Sinesipho Jalumpu, a rising star from Makuphula High School in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch, started playing Kho-Kho through the MOD Programme. Her incredible speed, tactical awareness, and leadership quickly made her one of the standout players. After excelling at the National School Sport Championships, she earned her spot in the South African Women's Kho-Kho Team, becoming a key player at the World Cup. The team made it to the semi-final stage of the competition.

Linathi Pikoko, a trailblazer from Khayelitsha Linathi, a former Matthew Goniwe Memorial High School, graduated in 2022 but remained active in Kho-Kho, mentoring younger players at his MOD Centre. His determination and talent earned him a place in the South African Men's Kho-Kho Team, where he played a vital role in the team's impressive performance at the World Cup.

Their journey from school sport to the international stage is a testament to the power of structured after-school programmes in unlocking the potential of young athletes. Both players have now set their sights on future international tournaments, inspiring the next generation of Kho-Kho players in South Africa. Their success marks a significant step in growing Indigenous Games and elevating the country's presence in the global sporting arena.



From Vulnerability to Victory

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD) LAUNCHED ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICA SKILLS, A PRIVATE TRAINING COLLEGE IN GEORGE

RIGHT: Executive Mayor Jackie von Brandis, Staff from the Outeniekwa CYCC, DSD Minister Jaco Londt, Africa Skills CEO Elsie Harmse and Chief Director Leana Goosen



“Africa Skills offers a range of accredited artisan trade courses, such as boilermaking, plumbing, and automotive mechanics”

Through this partnership, children from DSD’s Outeniekwa Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) will get learning and bursary opportunities through Africa Skills. The department manages seven residential Child and Youth Care Centres which offer varying levels of care to sentenced or awaiting trial children and youth, or those with severe behavioural challenges.

One of the beneficiaries (who cannot be named to protect his identity) said this will change his life, “I am the first one in my family to get an opportunity like this, so I won’t take it for granted. This will have a big impact on my future. I’m the oldest of three brothers, so it will also have a huge impact on them.”

Another beneficiary said, “I’ve seen a lot at the Africa Skills campus that will help me change my future because when I was outside [of Outeniekwa] I didn’t get the chance to change. Here I can learn a skill that will help me find a job so I can stand on my own two feet.”

Africa Skills offers a range of accredited artisan trade courses, such as boilermaking, plumbing, and automotive mechanics.

“It is always said that one’s past should not determine one’s future. This is true but understanding and embracing challenging pasts is the foundation on which this

partnership is built. Africa Skills will ensure that we continue to change the future, and what better way than ensuring a holistic approach is taken, to develop youth that can take South Africa to even greater heights. This partnership has the power to help people find their true purpose and bury the hardships of the past,” Africa Skills CEO Elsie Harmse added.

DSD Minister Jaco Londt, set this partnership in motion when he visited the Africa Skills George Tech in July last year.

“I knew there was a way for the department to take hands with Africa Skills, for the benefit of the many young people we serve. Child and youth care workers and social workers will support the students, so that they can get the necessary psychosocial support they need to deal with any challenges that may arise during their studies – as is the procedure with other residents at DSD CYCCs. An occupational therapist at Outeniekwa will take the lead with this programme, to ensure job-readiness,” he said.

Minister Londt added that the partnership is also aimed at breaking the cycle of social ills such as poverty, unemployment, and crime that plague many of the children at Outeniekwa.

“This is a chance for them to carve out



Signing of agreement: Bronwynn Weilbach (Occupational therapist at Outeniekwa CYCC), Chief Director Leana Goosen, Minister Jaco Londt, Elsie Harmse (Africa Skills CEO), and Barbara Nicholas (Outeniekwa CYCC Manager)

a new path, a path that may lead them out of the circumstances that brought them to the CYCC in the first place. Education and skills development go hand in hand with job creation. That is the goal, to make these young people employable, so they may create a better future for themselves and their families. It is the start of a journey of hope and dignity for them, and we want to say thank you to Africa Skills for taking hands with us.”



ABOVE: Outeniekwa CYCC children getting a tour of the Africa Skills George Tech campus

CAPE CARE FUND

Introducing the Cape Care Fund – an initiative launched by the Department of Social Development. The Cape Care Fund aims to improve and provide financial aid to a host of non-profit organisations across the province. The goal for many of these NGOs is social and community upliftment. DSD has partnered with the Health Foundation South Africa, who will administer the fund.

To read more on this, click [here](#), and keep an eye on your WCG mailbox for more info on the fund throughout the upcoming year.

Pioneering a Loadshedding-free Future

THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN ITS JOURNEY TO ENSURE THAT RIVERSDALE AND ITS MORE THAN 20, 000 RESIDENTS' RELIANCE ON ESKOM FOR THEIR ENERGY NEEDS IS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED AND THAT IT BECOMES THE WESTERN CAPE'S FIRST LOAD SHEDDING-FREE TOWN.

RIGHT: Premier Alan Winde joins the Department of Local Government (DLG) engineers in celebrating the progress of the Hessequa solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage system (BESS) project, a major step towards making Riversdale a load-shedding-free town

This groundbreaking initiative, in partnership with the Hessequa Municipality, is poised to serve as a best practice study for municipalities across the country aiming to achieve energy independence and sustainability. This development is based on a 10MWpk solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage system (BESS) integrated into existing distribution infrastructure. The expectation is that the project will significantly impact the social and economic development of the town by attracting investment and serving as a catalyst for job growth in the region.

STRATEGIC PROCESS AND LAND IDENTIFICATION

A comprehensive process was undertaken to identify suitable land for the development of a solar PV plant. The criteria for selection included land ownership, suitability for development, land rezoning, environmental impact, and the proximity of the selected site to the existing electrical grid infrastructure. These factors played a critical role in minimising distribution losses, maximising efficiency, and facilitating construction. This strategic location not only enhances the feasibility of the project but also sets a precedent for other regions to identify similar pockets of land to be utilised for renewable energy purposes.

RIGOROUS SPECIFICATIONS IN TENDER AND PROCUREMENT

Ensuring the highest standards in the tender and procurement process was paramount. Detailed specifications were meticulously outlined to mitigate associated risks and ensure project success. This approach underscores the importance of clear, precise requirements and demonstrates the value of thorough planning and risk management.

SECURING PRIOR APPROVALS

Securing necessary approvals was a



critical step in the project's progression. By navigating regulatory requirements effectively, Hessequa Municipality has established a clear pathway for other municipalities aspiring to undertake similar initiatives. These approvals highlight the importance of compliance and due diligence in the success of energy projects.

GUIDING OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

The Hessequa initiative is more than just a local achievement, it is a blueprint for



THIS DEVELOPMENT IS BASED ON A 10MWPK SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) INTEGRATED INTO EXISTING DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE.

municipalities nationwide. By documenting each step of the process – from land identification and rezoning, to environmental authorisation, procurement, and obtaining approvals – Hessequa provides a valuable guide for other regions aiming to reduce their dependence on the national grid, achieve energy security, and focus on the goals of decarbonisation.

ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

Beyond the primary steps, the project's success also hinges on community engagement and stakeholder collaboration. Involving local businesses, public participation processes, and energy experts has been instrumental in fostering support and ensuring the project meets the community's needs.

Hessequa Municipality remains committed to pioneering innovative solutions to the energy challenges facing South Africa. We are well on our way to completing this transformative project, setting a new standard for energy resilience in the Western Cape.

SECURING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Premier Alan Winde added, "We have been actively assisting municipalities across our province to explore and implement an



TOP AND LEFT: The provincial executive management, the National Deputy Minister of Energy, and the executive and senior management of Hessequa Municipality gather at the Hessequa PV Solar Soil Turning ceremony, marking the launch of a pioneering energy project aimed at enhancing energy security and economic growth in the region

array of interventions to provide affordable, renewable, and reliable energy that is not reliant on Eskom."

He added, "This energy project will be critical in protecting the residents of Riversdale and surrounds from Eskom power cuts and securing economic growth and driving job creation in the region. There are also huge economic benefits for the municipality through this project, as it will also be able to sell clean energy to its residents at more affordable prices." ●

Our WCG Culture Journey for 2025!

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER'S PEOPLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES GIVES US A LOOK AT THE YEAR TO COME, AND WHAT OUR WCG CULTURE JOURNEY FOR 2025 ENTAILS

1

MEASUREMENT: TOP EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION 2025 FRONTLINE

Western Cape Government is recognised as a **Top Employer in South Africa, for a third consecutive year.** Being certified as a Top Employer showcases our organisation's **dedication** to a better world of work and exhibits this through excellent **People Management policies and practices.** We form part of this group of leading, people-oriented employers: **The Top Employers 2025.** The programme has certified and recognised over 2,429 Top Employers in 125 countries. The Top Employers Institute programme certifies organisations based on the participation and results of **their People/HR Best Practices Survey.** This survey covers six People practice domains consisting of 20 topics including People Strategy, Work Environment, Talent Acquisition, Learning, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Wellbeing and more.

A **Certification Celebration** took place 20 February 2025 in Johannesburg. Please remember to proudly use the Top Employer Certification seal on your letterheads and PowerPoint presentations to showcase this great achievement.



2

UPDATE ON WCG VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COHORT 3 INTRODUCTION

The Values-based Leadership Development Programme (VBLDP) launched its third cohort in March 2025! The Launch saw 44 WCG employees embarking on this bespoke leadership journey aimed at maturing their character, as well as improving their people skills and leadership agency. These leaders were selected from across the 13 WCG departments after a highly competitive nomination and application process. They have embraced this multifaceted developmental journey which includes workshops, townhall gatherings, online learning, and various assessments (see image below). Each leader will additionally form part of a VBLDP Action Learning Group (ALG), a core VBLDP element referring to an inter-departmental team of leaders aiming to make a tangible and positive impact within WCG based on a visible, citizen-centric issue or gap identified. **Here are the list of participants for VBLDP 2025:**

Adele Isaacs-Cloete, DOA
Deona Strydom, DOA
Gary Lee Jones, DOA
Melanie Anne Tilling, DOA
Nompumelelo Philile Mtshali, DOA
Rebecca Mmamakgone Mathobela, DOA
Vanessa Barends-Jones, DOA
Vincent Henwood, DOA
Zenovia Parker, DOA
Cecilia Sani, DCAS
Phil McLean, DEA&DP
Robyn Britten, DEA&DP
Tania De Waal, DEA&DP
Tanya Van Wyk, DLG
Lisa Parkes, DEDAT
Amozelle Lambrechts, DOI
Ella Löb, DOI
Evridiki Salis, DOI
Gaynore Ilse Gorrah, DOI
Lishya Kirpal, DOI
Anna-Louise De Vries, DotP
Carolyn Lisa Mitchell, DotP
Ishrafiel Johaardien, DotP
Judith Reed, DotP
Nwabisa Ramakoe, DotP
Salwa Phillips, DotP
Shireen Hans, Employee Relations
Vuyiseka Majali, DSD
Carmen Robinson, DCAS
Emile Pierre Martin, DCAS
Shannan Tesse Potgieter, DCAS
Ashton Edward Joseph, WCGH&W
Denise Naicker, WCGH&W
Eshaam Mohamed, WCGH&W
Johanna van Schalkwyk, WCGH&W
Jonathan Majavie, WCGH&W
Nijmah Petersen, WCGH&W
Ntombizandile Princess Ndleleni, WCGH&W
Sandra Smit, WCGH&W
Soraya Fredericks, WCGH&W
Stephan Awie, Bruwer, WCGH&W
Yvonne Nelukalo, WCGH&W
Zandile Zakithi Zanele Kwinana, WCGH&W
Laverne Johnson, WCMD



3

EHW FEEDBACK ON CALEDON AND WEBINARS

The Western Cape Government's Mental Wellbeing Campaign took us to Caledon in the Overberg district on February 19, 2025. In keeping with our promise to bring mental wellbeing to all areas of the Western Cape, our colleagues from the 11 corporate departments represented in the Overberg participated in a one-day Mental wellbeing Workshop entitled Mental Health and Physical Activity: Better Life, Better Relationships.

Mental Wellbeing is fundamental to a productive and positive life. More so during times of change and trials. Mental health is a state of mental wellbeing that enables individuals to cope with the stresses of life, realise their abilities, learn and work well and, contribute positively to the workplace and communities in which they live. It is an integral component of overall health and wellbeing that reinforces our individual and collective skills to make decisions, build relationships, and shape the workplace. Mental health is crucial to personal, community, and socio-economic development.

DotP in partnership with DCAS presented opportunities to engage in informative, fun and intentional physical activities, cover topics on: Managing Depression Through Movement, Creating Authentic Work Relationships, Stress Management Techniques, Strengthening Teams Using Wellness techniques, How to Sustain Positive Habits at Home, and so much more. Attendees were empowered with skills to better manage stress, improve mental wellbeing in the workplace and at home, and learn the importance of movement in improving all aspects of wellbeing. Furthermore, the workshop provided an opportunity for the attendees to engage with the Employee Health and Wellness unit and in facilitated group discussions to allow attendees to share experiences and benefit from shared lived experiences.

Lyra Southern Africa, the WCG's Health and Wellness service provider was present to create increased awareness of the Employee Health and Wellness Programme service offerings for officials and their families, in essence, providing comprehensive mental wellbeing to all officials.

4

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS!!

Celebrate a Decade of Excellence with the WCG Service Excellence Awards!

Are you ready to witness the pinnacle of service excellence? The annual WCG Service Excellence Awards (SEA) is turning 10, and we're pulling out all the stops for a celebration like no other! This event is dedicated to honouring the best in the Western Cape, as we recognize and reward the exceptional achievements of WCG employees and its residents. It's an opportunity not only to celebrate excellence but also to promote a resident-centric culture and embed professionalism in the Public Sector.

This event is more than just an award ceremony; it is a cornerstone for fostering growth and excellence. The Western Cape Government Service Excellence Awards will take place during September 2025 as part of the Public Service Month celebrations.

Please be informed that the Call for Entries will be announced shortly through our WCG Communication Channels. We encourage everyone to participate in this significant event.



Boosting Tourism and Economic Growth

THE WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT'S TOURISM GROWTH FUND IS A PIVOTAL INITIATIVE AIMED AT ENHANCING THE TOURISM SECTOR WITHIN THE REGION.

Managed by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT), this fund is designed to support small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in developing and expanding their tourism products and services.

The programmes and projects for which financial support is sought must have the propensity to develop tourism attractions and experiences to enable them to grow and create jobs.

The Fund challenges those involved in the tourism ecosystem - both public and private - to co-invest in high-impact attractions and experiences to offer a more compelling reason to visit the Western Cape and its districts.

THE FUND PROVIDES CO-FUNDING TO:

- a) Collaborative initiatives that enhance high-volume tourism attractions through tourism infrastructure development/upgrading and/or place-making/beautification interventions; and/or
- b) Collaborative initiatives of tourism organisations working with tourism enterprises to enable businesses to enhance and expand their tourism offerings in areas with high growth potential.

The Fund is subject to budget availability. Although it is an open fund, it is in the best interest of the applicant to submit funding applications as soon as possible.

Applications received will be evaluated monthly against the evaluation criteria. All applicants to the fund will be informed of the outcome of their application.

The allocation of funds will be at the discretion of the Department and will be based on an evaluation process and the availability of budgetary resources.



APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA

1. Applicants must complete the [online application form](#) and will be required to upload all of the requested supporting documents. The submitted proposals must be structured toward one of the following categories:
 - Category 1: Tourism Infrastructure Support Initiatives with a focus on upgrading high visitor volume attractions.
 - Category 2: Tourism Product Development Support Initiatives with a focus on assisting tourism enterprises (specifically small, medium, and micro enterprises) with tourism product development.
 2. Only applications submitted via the online process will be considered. No emailed or hand-delivered applications will be considered.
 3. Thoroughly read the application guidelines before completing the online application. All sections in the application form are mandatory.
 4. We recommend that you familiarise yourself with the online form so that you have the necessary information at hand when completing your application. You can refer to the [attached document](#) for an electronic copy of the form as well as the [call for proposals](#).
- There is no closing date, however funds are subject to availability. For more information, click [here](#) or contact Deputy Director for DEDAT Lindy Cambouris on 021 483 6527 or G4JTourismFund@westerncape.gov.za**

"... this fund is designed to support small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in developing and expanding their tourism products and services."

Taking the Lead with Integrity

PROVINCIAL TREASURY'S THOBELANI MADONDILE AND LOYISO FANISO REPRESENTED THE WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT AT THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANTS GENERAL CONFERENCE

Integrity is the foundation of strong financial governance, and the Western Cape Government's (WCG) Provincial Treasury continually upholds this value through its commitment to ethical leadership, transparency, and accountability.

This commitment was exemplified in December 2024 when two of its officials, Thobelani Madondile and Loyiso Faniso, represented the department at the prestigious African Association of Accountants General Second Annual Conference held in Arusha in Tanzania.

Their participation not only underscored Provincial Treasury's dedication to professional excellence but also reinforced the critical role of integrity in public financial management.

A PLATFORM FOR LEARNING AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

The African Association of Accountants General conference serves as a key gathering for financial professionals across the continent, fostering dialogue on best practices, emerging challenges, and innovations in public sector financial management.

As Deputy Director for Local Government Accounting, Thobelani plays a pivotal role in ensuring municipalities uphold stringent financial controls, while Loyiso, Deputy Director for Provincial Government Accounting, oversees financial accountability at the provincial level.

Their attendance at the Conference provided them with invaluable exposure to international standards and modernised financial practices that can be applied within the WCG Provincial Treasury.

"Representing the Treasury at such a prestigious conference is not just an opportunity for personal growth—it's a chance to contribute to the development of better financial practices that ultimately benefit the people of the Western Cape," said Thobelani.

STRENGTHENING NETWORKS AND UPHOLDING TRANSPARENCY

Beyond knowledge-sharing, the Conference provided an essential platform for networking with peers from across Africa. Engaging with professionals who navigate similar challenges reinforced the importance of collaboration and integrity in financial management. These discussions covered

THEIR JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF UPHOLDING INTEGRITY IN ALL FINANCIAL PROCESSES - A VALUE THAT REMAINS THE CORNERSTONE OF A TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT.

key topics such as fraud prevention, ethical accounting standards, and digital innovations that enhance fiscal accountability.

"The Conference was an eye-opening experience. We exchanged insights on strengthening financial reporting frameworks, ensuring compliance, and maintaining public trust in government financial processes," said Loyiso. "Integrity remains at the heart of everything we do in public finance - without it, transparency and accountability would be compromised."

A FUTURE BUILT ON ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

Thobelani and Loyiso's participation in the Conference is a testament to the WCG Provincial Treasury's investment in developing ethical leaders who champion integrity in their work. Their experience underscores the department's dedication to continuous learning and ethical governance - ensuring that public funds are managed with the highest standards of accountability.

As they return from Tanzania, the lessons and networks they have built will not only shape their professional growth but will also contribute to strengthening the financial governance framework of the Western Cape.

Their journey highlights the importance of upholding integrity in all financial processes - a value that remains the cornerstone of a transparent and effective government.

In addition to their professional achievements, Thobelani and Loyiso were deeply moved by the warmth of the African people and the continent's breathtaking beauty, further enriching their experience. Their participation at the Conference marks a milestone in their careers and sets a standard for future leaders in the Provincial Treasury.

By continuously fostering ethical leadership and embracing opportunities for growth, the WCG Provincial Treasury ensures that integrity remains at the core of its financial management practices—paving the way for a more accountable and prosperous future.



ABOVE: Treasury's Thobelani Madondile (top) and Loyiso Faniso (below)

Winners Shine at Provincial Sport Awards

On January 2025 in Paarl, the winners of the 2024 Provincial Sport Awards were announced.

The event, held as an overall provincial ceremony and hosted by the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS), brought together the winners from the six Regional Awards ceremonies held across the province in late 2024.

These provincial winners will now go on to be nominated for the National Sport Awards.

"It is always wonderful to celebrate the achievements of athletes, coaches, administrators and sporting bodies from across the province. These are the individuals who are making an impact in their communities, by inspiring others to lead active and healthy lifestyles and to make positive choices," said DCAS Minister Ricardo Mackenzie.

"Congratulations to all the nominees and winners on what they have achieved in their various sporting codes."

THE PROVINCE EXTENDS A HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

RIGHT: Minister Mackenzie with Ministerial commendation recipient Ilhaam Groenewald

Minister Mackenzie with Ministerial commendation recipients from the Velokhaya Cycling Academy



SPORT AWARDS WINNERS 2025 WINNERS:

- **Sport Administrator of the year:** Johannes Jacobus Barnard – Tug-of-War
- **Sportsman of the year:** Alan Hatherly – Cycling
- **Sportswoman of the year:** Tasneem Solomons – Cue Sport
- **Team of the year:** South African Under 23 Tug-of-War Men's Team
- **Newcomer of the year:** Duné Haasbroek – Modern Pentathlon
- **Volunteer of the year:** Ingrid Le Fleur – Softball
- **Indigenous Games Team of the year:** Cape Winelands Drie-Stokkies
- **School team of the year:** Oakdale 560kg Tug of War Team
- **Developing School Team of the year:** Mispah School Cross Country Team – Athletics
- **Recognition of Technical Excellence:** Dr. Kevin du Plooy – Weightlifting
- **Sport Community Builder of the year:** Lazola Thole – Boxing
- **Junior Sportswoman of the year:** Georgia Singe – Canoeing
- **Junior Sportsman of the year:** Noah Bennett – SA Shooting Sport Association
- **School Sportsman of the year:** Wanru Haasbroek – Modern Pentathlon
- **School Sportswoman of the year:** Duné Haasbroek – Modern Pentathlon
- **Coach of the year:** Jason Sewanyana – Athletics
- **District Federation of the year:** Cape Winelands Volleyball Union
- **Sportsman of the year with a Disability:** Mpumelelo Mhlongo – Athletics
- **Sportswoman of the year with a Disability:** Minke Janse Van Rensburg – Aquatics
- **Recreation Body of the year:** Beaufort West Older Persons Club
- **Photographer of the year:** Wyndham Ewerts
- **Provincial Sport Federation:** Western Cape Cycling
- **Best After School Sport and Recreation Programme Award:** Adopt-A-Surfer
- **After School Sport and Recreation Coaching Excellence Award:** Brendon Harker – Surfing
- **Ministerial Awards:** Manie Libbok – Men's Rugby; Ilhaam Groenewald – Sport Administrator; Sinazo Mcatshulwa – Women's Rugby; Velokhaya Cycling Academy; Dave Van Der Walt – Sport Administrator



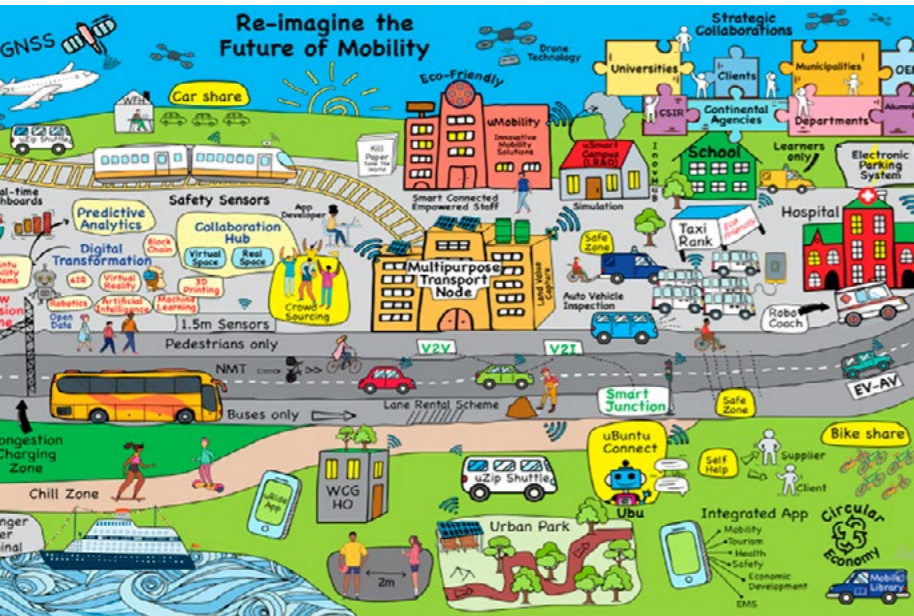
TOP PHOTO: group photo with all the evening's winners

SECOND ROW:
Left: Chief Director: Sport and Recreation, Lyndon Bouah with winner: Coach of the year: Jason Sewanyana
Right: Head of Department Guy Redman with winner: Junior Sportsman of the Year: Noah Bennett

BOTTOM ROW:
Left: Head of Department Guy Redman with winner: Sportsman with a Disability: Mpumelelo Mhlongo
Minister Mackenzie with winner: Sportswoman of the year: Tasneem Solomons

Driving Progress Through Sustainable Fleet Management

THE ROADS OF THE WESTERN CAPE TELL A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION, ONE THAT BEGINS WITH STRATEGIC VEHICLE LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT.



ABOVE: GMT's Re-imagining the Future of Mobility Vision

"This strategic investment reflects GMT's commitment to maintaining a modern, efficient fleet that serves the Western Cape's diverse needs."

In the first months of 2025, Government Motor Transport (GMT) has demonstrated how thoughtful fleet planning and replacement strategies directly translate into enhanced public service delivery while embracing circular economy principles and a connected mobility landscape.

At the heart of GMT's success lies a comprehensive vehicle lifecycle management programme, supported by a steadily increasing replacement budget that has grown from R180.6 million in 2019/20 to R707.9 million in 2024/25.

This strategic investment reflects GMT's commitment to maintaining a modern, efficient fleet that serves the Western Cape's diverse needs.

GMT's Vehicle Replacement Technology Solution provides a complete technology platform that delivers end-to-end visibility and replaces all manual processes. This integrated digital real-time process tracks the entire vehicle lifecycle; from procurement and assembly through to preparation, withdrawal, and disposal. The system is enhanced by workflow enablement, end-to-end digitisation, mobile enablement, and intelligent dashboards, ensuring seamless management of the fleet replacement process.

This digital transformation is further enhanced by GMT's FleetMan Vehicle Inspection App, which has revolutionised fleet management through digitised inspections, increasing productivity and coverage across the GMT ecosystem.

The results speak for themselves: GMT has exceeded its replacement target of 3,921 vehicles, with 4,347 ordered since October 2021. Of these, 3,263 vehicles have been delivered, and 2,552 are already serving communities across the province. This achievement goes beyond the numbers; it represents GMT's dedication to maintaining optimal vehicle lifecycles, ensuring both service reliability and cost-effectiveness.

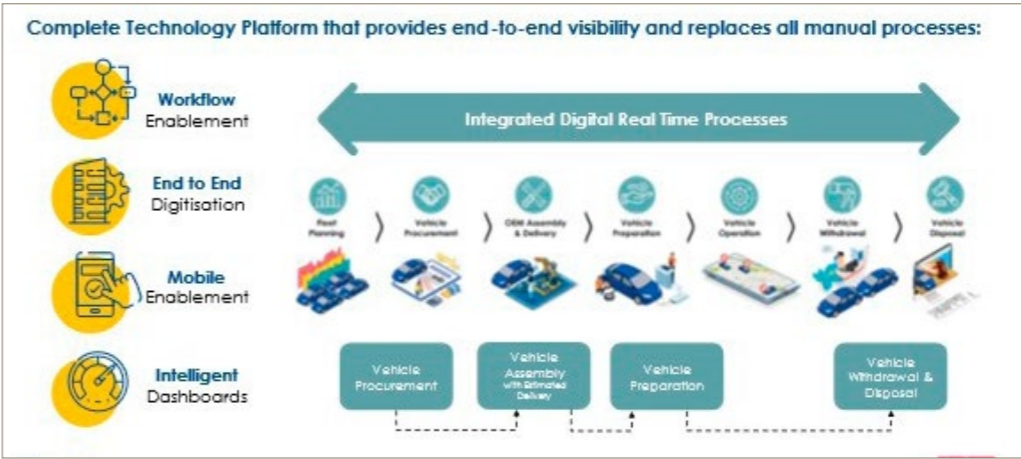
The impact of this lifecycle management approach is particularly evident in critical services. The province's emergency medical services now operate with 188 new ambulances, while an innovative mobile clinic programme will deploy 20 solar-powered units, with 43 more in the pipeline. These specialised vehicles demonstrate how effective lifecycle management translates into improved public service delivery and the use of renewable energy solutions.

Driving these achievements is a transformative vision for the Western Cape's future, anchored in GMT's commitment to greening the fleet. By reducing carbon emissions with alternative fuels and fostering thought leadership in green transport through university collaborations, GMT stands at the forefront of the province's decarbonisation journey.

With 60 NEVs already in service and a further 26 recently purchased and set to be delivered soon, GMT is not merely adopting new technology; it is actively reshaping the province's approach to sustainable mobility. This strategic transition forms a crucial part of the Western Cape Government's commitment to environmental stewardship and economic innovation through the development of a comprehensive NEV ecosystem.

The NEV programme represents a fundamental shift in public sector fleet management. Through careful planning and phased implementation, GMT is demonstrating how government institutions can lead the way in reducing carbon emissions while maintaining operational excellence.

The programme goes beyond vehicle



LEFT: GMT's Vehicle Replacement Technology Solution: Confirmation of Vision

GMT's current mobility solutions include a range of vehicles:

Standard Vehicles:	Converted Vehicles:	Specialised Vehicles:
Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration• Number plate• Fuel card• Vehicle preparation• Tracking• Invoice payment• Client handover	Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normal requirements, plus• Full conversion at different suppliers (off site)• Extended supply chain (IPS & LB's)• IVT cameras• BMS technology	Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normal requirements, plus• Technical evaluation by OEM• Equipment to be ordered from different suppliers• Installation is complex and time consuming

LEFT: Snapshot of GMT's Mobility Solutions

replacement as it includes the development of charging infrastructure across the province, partnerships with original equipment manufacturers, and innovative projects in battery technology and recycling. This comprehensive ecosystem approach positions the Western Cape as a pioneer in sustainable public sector transport solutions.

This integrated approach to mobility transformation is evident across GMT's diverse service areas. A prime example can be seen in law enforcement capabilities, which have been enhanced through comprehensive fleet modernisation.

The deployment of 136 BMW 320 traffic vehicles and 20 Toyota Corollas, each equipped with advanced technology, ensures that the province's roads remain safe while maintaining optimal fleet performance through timely replacements and upgrades.

A further 73 Traffic Corollas are in development, strengthening road safety capabilities. Additionally, GMT has expanded its educational support by delivering 13 35-seater school buses to the Western

Cape Education Department for the 2025 academic year.

The true measure of GMT's success lies in its impact on daily lives, in the ambulance that arrives promptly during an emergency, the mobile clinic that brings healthcare to a remote community, or the traffic patrol vehicle that ensures road safety.

Through strategic lifecycle management and thoughtful fleet modernisation, GMT continues to demonstrate its commitment to integrity and excellence in public service delivery.

As GMT advances its vehicle lifecycle management and NEV integration strategies, the next phase of this journey will focus on accelerating NEV adoption across the Western Cape's public sector fleet, ensuring sustainable, equitable access to clean mobility solutions for all. ●

Top of the Class 2024 celebrated at Provincial Awards Ceremony

THE WESTERN CAPE'S 2024 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) AWARDS CEREMONY, HELD AT LEEUWENHOF, THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE PREMIER, WAS A GRAND CELEBRATION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.



Guests were welcomed by the enchanting sounds of a string quartet, while an art exhibition and dance performances added to the visual splendor. A gentle drizzle at the start of the day created a refreshing atmosphere.

The ceremony honoured the top candidates and schools for their outstanding performance in the NSC exams. In his welcoming address, Head of Education, Brent Walters, described the event as the culmination of at least 12 years of sustained hard work and sacrifice by the award recipients.

"The NSC means so much to all of us, as individuals, as parents, teachers and principals. We are all truly united in working towards the same goal – the goal of achieving quality education for every child in this province."

Western Cape Education Minister, David Maynier, acknowledged the significant challenges faced over the past year, including budget constraints and difficult decisions. Despite these hurdles, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has remained steadfast in its commitment to improving learning outcomes, expanding access to education and driving education reform.

Minister Maynier expressed gratitude to principals for their leadership and support.

RECORD-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENTS

The extraordinary achievements of the province's Class of 2024 were celebrated with great pride. The 2024 cohort achieved the highest pass rate ever at 86,6% and the highest bachelor's pass rate at 47,8%. The province also attained the top Mathematics and Physical Sciences pass rates in the country, the highest Grade 10 to 12 retention rate and the top candidate in the country for the fourth consecutive year.

MESSAGE TO TOP CANDIDATES

Minister Maynier praised the top candidates, expressing pride in their achievements and encouraging them to aim high. He envisioned a future where these candidates could become leaders in various fields and pioneers in cutting-edge research. "To our top candidates, we are so proud of what you have achieved. Your schools are so proud of what you have achieved, and your families are so proud of what you have achieved. You have proved that you are the best of the best, and there is no limit to what you can achieve."

FOCUS ON QUALITY EDUCATION

The Minister emphasised the importance of focusing on key quality indicators such as bachelor's pass rates and Mathematics achievement. He highlighted the success stories of schools like Mondale High, Hector Peterson Secondary and Chris Hani Secondary, which have excelled despite challenging circumstances. Additionally, he noted the exceptional Mathematics pass rates at Joe Slovo Secondary (96%), Siphamandla Secondary (95,4%) and COSAT (98,3%), all located in Khayelitsha.

SUPPORT NETWORK

Premier Alan Winde congratulated the matriculants who had to deal with a pandemic, load shedding and various challenges during their last five years of school but still rose to the occasion and made the province proud. "A very big thank you to your schools, your principals, your teachers because they were alongside you on this journey to enable you to achieve what you have achieved." The Premier also thanked parents and guardians for being a



safety net along the way. He commended the department for the role everyone played in pushing through despite challenges, coming up with new ideas and leading from the front to show what can be done.

AWARDS TO SCHOOLS

Premier Winde and Minister Maynier kicked off the awards by honouring schools for outstanding improvements in pass rates, Bachelor's access, subject excellence and overall academic improvement. This segment of the programme concluded with awards to the top 20 schools in the province with an NSC enrolment of 80 or more candidates.

Congratulations to Rustenburg Girls' High School, in first place, Hoër Meisieskool Bloemhof in second, and Claremont High School claiming third place. The full list of award winners is available [here](#).

AWARDS TO CANDIDATES

Candidates received recognition for the best performance in specified subjects, outstanding performance in the Special Needs category, Special Ministerial Awards and awards to the top learners in the province.

Two remarkable matriculants received Special Ministerial Awards for excelling despite the odds. Christoffel Petrus Lombard, a learner from Hoër Tegniese Skool Drostdy, was born with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a progressive illness that threatened to derail his education. With the support of his school, he skipped Grade 9 and continued to excel academically, earning a bachelor's pass and six distinctions, including one in Mathematics. Onga Mabusela, a learner from Thembelihle Secondary School, faced unimaginable hardship, including poverty, hunger and even a devastating house fire. He matriculated with a bachelor's pass and seven distinctions, including ones in Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

BEST OF THE BEST

The top candidate in the Western Cape and the best in the country, Rayyan Ebrahim from Pinelands High School, received a standing ovation for his hard work and



dedication. Another Pinelands High School matriculant, Matthew Wise, achieved second place in the province and the country. Nicholas Schreiber, from Rondebosch Boys' High School, was in third place.

A list of all the award winners is available [here](#).

TOP ROW: Jani Steyn of Hoërskool Swartland with Minister David Maynier, Premier Alan Winde and Head of Education, Brent Walters. She was the top achiever in Afrikaans Home Language

Junior Kondwani Nyirenda of Sinenjongo High School was a top achiever in Life Sciences

SECOND ROW: Rayyan Ebrahim of Pinelands High School received awards for his outstanding performance in Physical Sciences and being the top achiever nationally and provincially

Akha Mapekula of Sizimisele Secondary School received an award for excellence in Technical Mathematics

THIRD ROW: Christoffel Petrus Lombard of Hoër Tegniese Skool Drostdy received a special Ministerial Award

SECOND LAST IMAGE: The mother of Liyema Maphanga of Siphamandla Secondary School collected an award as one of the top 40 candidates on his behalf

LAST IMAGE: Jordan Raubenheimer of De La Bat Skool was the top achiever in South African Sign Language



OUR EMPLOYEE
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
PROGRAMME OFFERS
ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELLING AND
ADVISORY SERVICES –
FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL
WCG EMPLOYEES



EVERY YEAR, WE OBSERVE WORLD TB DAY TO SHED LIGHT ON THE SERIOUS HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TUBERCULOSIS (TB) WHILE REINFORCING GLOBAL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE DISEASE

"Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant public health concern in South Africa, particularly in the Western Cape province."

This day commemorates March 24, 1882, when Dr. Robert Koch made a groundbreaking discovery – the bacterium responsible for TB. His revelation paved the way for improved diagnosis and treatment, bringing hope to millions affected by this infectious disease.

CLOSE TO HOME
Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant public health concern in South Africa, particularly in the Western Cape province. In 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that approximately 54,200 individuals in South Africa succumbed to TB, with around 280,000 new cases reported that year.

In the Western Cape, TB has been the leading cause of death for over a decade. The provincial government, recognising the severity of the epidemic, has implemented a multi-sectoral response plan since April 2021. This initiative aims to prevent TB infections, expedite diagnosis, and ensure prompt treatment to save lives.

A notable component of this strategy is the Targeted Universal Testing for TB (TUTT) programme, introduced in March 2024. This programme focuses on proactive testing of high-risk populations, regardless of symptom presentation, to identify and treat TB cases early.

To enhance transparency and public engagement, we the Western Cape Government (WCG), launched a public-facing TB dashboard in September 2021. This tool provides real-time data on TB metrics, enabling communities and stakeholders to monitor progress and collaborate effectively in combating the disease.

Addressing TB in South Africa requires sustained commitment, innovative strategies, and community involvement to overcome the ongoing challenges posed by this curable yet deadly disease.

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENTS

Common symptoms of TB are:

- prolonged cough (sometimes with blood)
- chest pain
- weakness
- fatigue
- weight loss
- fever
- night sweats

The symptoms people get depend on which part of the body is affected by TB. While TB usually affects the lungs, it can also involve the kidneys, brain, spine and skin.

TREATMENT

Tuberculosis disease is treated with special antibiotics. Treatment is recommended for both TB infection and disease. The most common antibiotics used are:

- isoniazid
- rifampicin
- pyrazinamide
- ethambutol.

To be effective, medications need to be taken daily for four to six months. It is dangerous to stop the medications early or without medical advice as it can prompt TB bacteria in the body to become resistant to the drugs.

TB that doesn't respond to standard drugs is called drug-resistant TB and requires treatment with different medicines. ●

WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES ARE OFFERED?

- Counselling — employees and immediate family/household members
- Trauma counselling — individuals and teams
- Family counselling
- Relationship counselling
- Substance abuse management
- Managerial support — issues relating to employee engagement
- Tailored work/life support
- Mental health support
- Financial advice
- Legal advice
- Hello Doctor — online access to medical advice on any device

WHY ARE THESE SERVICES A GOOD SOURCE OF SUPPORT?

- Services can be accessed by employees and their immediate family members telephonically and digitally 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including public holidays.
- A multi-disciplinary team is available to offer a multi-lingual and confidential service.
- Services are provided by a professional external service provider, representing your interests.
- Direct access to services is provided at no cost.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU CONTACT THE CALL CENTRE?

1. When you phone the toll-free number, an automated voice message will welcome you to the Employee Health and Wellness Programme.
2. You will be asked to select the type of service you require by pressing the relevant number on your phone.
3. You will then be asked to choose your language preference by pressing the relevant number on your phone.
4. Your call will be answered by a professional counsellor who will assist you with your concern.

If you have a problem that feels too big to handle, be it personal, family, health, or work-related, or if you need information on a legal, financial, or family care matter, phone toll free using the number below, send an email, or send a "call me back" using the USSD code. All departments, excluding Health and Education, fall under the Corporate Services Centre (CSC).

● **WCG (CSC): 0800 611 155, wgcsc@mhg.co.za**
● **WCG (Health): 0800 611 093, wagh@mhg.co.za**
● **WCG (Education): 0800 111 011, wced@mhg.co.za**

USSD CODE FOR A CALL BACK FROM A CELL PHONE:

- ***134*664*40# (CSC)**
- ***134*664*39# (HEALTH)**
- ***134*664*38# (EDUCATION)**

Source:
<https://www.who.int/>

Values



CARING

To care for those we serve and work with.



INTEGRITY

To be honest and do the right thing.



COMPETENCE

The ability and capacity to do the job we were employed to do.



INNOVATION

To be open to new ideas and develop creative solutions to problems in a resourceful way.



ACCOUNTABILITY

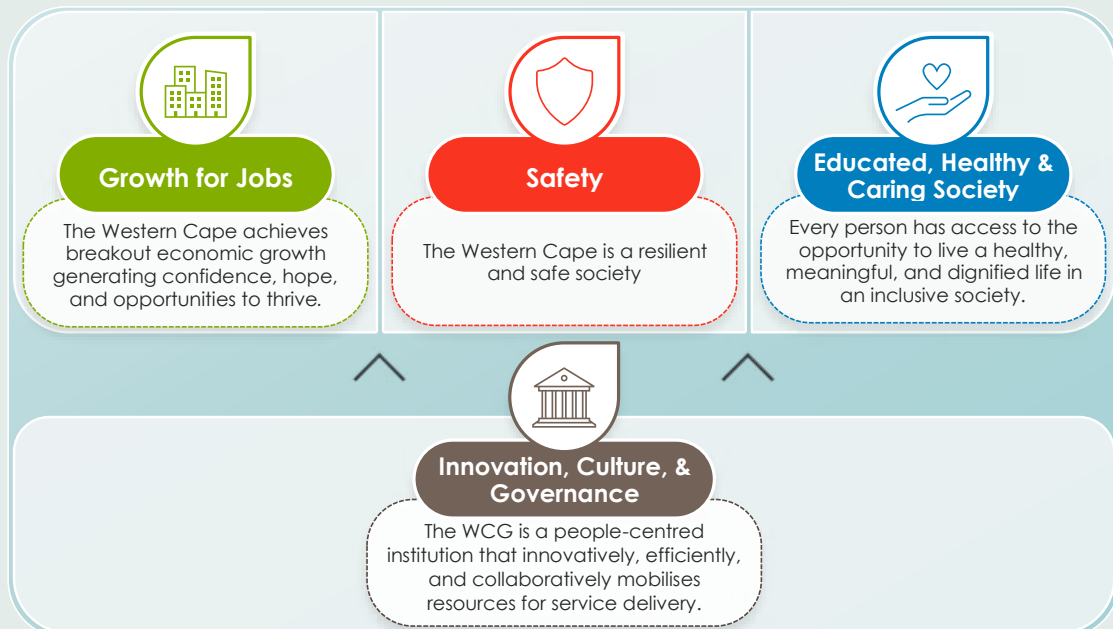
We take responsibility.



RESPONSIVENESS

To serve the needs of our residents and employees.

WCG Strategic Portfolios



**Western Cape
Government**

Committed to making a better province
FOR YOU.