



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE  
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

# COGTA

## *Newsletter*

April-May 2026



“Makhanda was highly sought after and pursued by the British forces, who saw him as the leading protagonist in causing the war. Makhanda later surrendered, believing it would bring an immediate end to the conflict, and was taken captive.”  
**Dr Mphumzi Rumsell Xonxa**”



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## EDITORIAL COMMENT



Ms Thando Sonjica

This past month has reminded us that leadership is not only about charting a course forward, but also about standing with communities in their most difficult moments. The MEC's visit to flood-affected areas in Nelson Mandela Bay was more than symbolic, it was a reaffirmation that government must be present where the need is greatest. Listening to residents, assessing the damage, and committing to recovery efforts are steps that strengthen trust between leaders and the people they serve.

At the same time, traditional leadership has been in the spotlight. The Rharhabe Kingdom, alongside a Nigerian delegation, has faced questions around coronation controversies. Yet, the acting King's receipt of tools of trade signals continuity and resilience in cultural institutions that remain vital to our social fabric. These developments remind us that heritage and governance are intertwined, and both must be nurtured with respect and transparency.

Progress is also being made in safeguarding our youth. The rollout of the Z-folder form to support safe initiation practices is a critical intervention. By formalizing accountability and promoting health standards, this initiative protects lives while preserving cultural rites of passage. It is a testament to how tradition and modern governance can work hand in hand.

Looking ahead, the MEC has begun to chart a roadmap toward the 2026 local government elections. This is not merely about political timelines, it is about preparing communities for active participation, ensuring that service delivery remains central, and reinforcing democratic values. The journey to 2026 must be one of inclusion, accountability, and vision.

Beyond these highlights, the Department has advanced a range of projects which can be found throughout the newsletter, read more about other programmes and enjoy the read.

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This is a monthly newsletter published by the Directorate: Communication Management of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

# MEC WILLIAMS LED COORDINATED OVERSIGHT VISIT TO FLOOD-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

By: Sonto Malinga

“

This is how the economy of Joubertina is affected by the R62 and the maintenance of the area close to the bridge could have avoided this impact. We promise to do all we can to make the road drivable soon.

”

MEC Williams



In a continued effort to strengthen government's disaster response and recovery initiatives, the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Zolile Williams, led an oversight visit to flood-affected areas across Nelson Mandela Bay Metro last on 27 May 2026. The visit formed part of ongoing provincial interventions following the recent severe weather conditions that caused widespread damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, and communities.

Accompanied by the team from the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC), municipal officials, and other key stakeholders, the MEC assessed the impact of the floods. The visit underscored the importance of a coordinated, multi-sectoral response to disaster management, with a focus on both immediate relief and long-term recovery.

The programme began at the Fresh Produce Market in Markman, a key economic centre in the Metro strong winds and heavy rainfalls destroyed parts of the roof, halting operations and impacting negatively traders who depend on the market for their income. The visit highlighted the vulnerability of key economic infrastructure to extreme weather conditions and the urgent need for resilient rebuilding measures.

In Motherwell, the delegation visited the Nomakanjani informal settlement, where residents raised concerns about stagnant water, damaged homes, and the heightened risk of waterborne diseases. MEC Williams reaffirmed government's commitment to prioritise relief measures and health interventions in vulnerable areas.

The oversight visits further extended to Zebedee Farm in Rocklands, where floodwaters had severely damaged a bridge, cutting off access and disrupting farming activities. This has had a direct impact on agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of those dependent on the farm.

Reflecting on similar infrastructure challenges in other parts of the province, particularly along the R62 near Joubertina, MEC Williams emphasized the critical role of infrastructure maintenance in disaster mitigation.

“This is how the economy of Joubertina is affected by the R62 and the maintenance of the area close to the bridge could have avoided this impact. We promise to do all we can to make the road drivable soon,” he said.

The visit also provided a platform for discussions to accelerate repair work, improve drainage systems, strengthen early warning mechanisms, and enhance community awareness on disaster preparedness.

“Through collaborative action and responsive leadership, we are working to restore normality and safeguard the wellbeing of the residents. As recovery efforts continue, we remain focused to restore dignity, rebuild livelihoods, and ensure support to the affected communities,” said the MEC.



Nomakanjani Informal Settlement



Damaged bridge in Rocklands

# BATTLE OF EGAZINI COMMEMORATED IN MAKHANDA

By Vuyani Sibene



L-R Kumkani of Rharhabe Kingdom  
Vululwandle Jonguxolo Sandile,  
Makana LM Mayor Councillor  
Yandiswa Vara, Deputy Minister of  
Cogta Rev Prince Burns Ncamashe &  
Makana LM Speaker  
Councillor Mabhuti  
Matyuzza

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs commemorated the Battle of eGazini in collaboration with Makana Local Municipality, Albany Museum, the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Old Mutual, and the Amadlambe Traditional Council in April 2026. This commemoration reflected on the Fifth Xhosa War (1818–1819), fought at the Frontier Settlement of Grahamstown, now known as Makhanda, named after the AmaXhosa warrior.

Dr Mphumzi Rumsell Xonxa, a member of the Mayoral Committee for Engineering and Infrastructure in Makana LM, said, “The confrontation involved the defence of the town by the British garrison, aided by a group of Khoekhoe marksmen, against a large force of Xhosa warriors. The war continued for several months during which the Xhosa suffered heavy losses.

Makhanda was highly sought after and pursued by the British forces, who saw him as the leading protagonist in causing the war. Makhanda later surrendered, believing it would bring an immediate end to the conflict, and was taken captive.”

On 22 April 1819, between 6,000 and 10,000 Xhosa warriors, along with a small number of British army deserters, gathered on the north-eastern hills facing Grahamstown. They were led by a man said to possess mystic powers, known variously as Makana (also spelt Makhanda) or Nxele. This historic struggle reflects broader land issues, emphasizing the need for people to reclaim and work their land.

The Makana Freedom Festival was celebrated with support for local schools wherein Nyaluza and Nombulelo High Schools received donations from Old Mutual of 207 pairs of school shoes.

The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture donated a laptop and printer to the IMbumba non-profit organization.

Reverend Linda Snam-Dyani of Albany Museum said they will always support the Makana Local Municipality as their heritage and the history.

The guest speaker for the day, Deputy Minister Rev Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, said, “We have the responsibility to take care of our country because the freedom we are enjoy was fought for by our Kings and Queens of South Africa. This land is still sticky with their blood. The Fifth War is one of those struggles and some do not even understand the name change of the (Municipality to Makana). They do not even realize what Graham did to our forefathers by taking our land in the Battle of eGazini, which is where we are today.”

King Vululwandle Sandile of Rharhabe Kingdom concluded the proceedings by planting trees and laying wreaths in remembrance of the brave Xhosa warriors.

“ We have the responsibility to take care of our country ”

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# RHARHABE KINGDOM AND NIGERIAN DELEGATION FORGE PEACE AFTER CORONATION CONTROVERSY

By Sabo Dlelengana



L-R Deputy Minister of COGTA Rev Prince Burns Ndamase; Nkosi Langa Mavuso; Nigerian High Commission, Alexander Temitope Ajayi ; MEC Zolile Williams; King Vululwandle Sandile and Nkosi Xhanti Sigcawu

A high-level engagement convened between the Rharhabe Kingdom, and the High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been hailed as a significant step toward preserving social cohesion, respecting traditional leadership institutions, and strengthening diplomatic relations between South Africa and Nigeria.

The meeting, attended by Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Rev Zolile Prince Burns Ndamase, alongside Eastern Cape MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Zolile Williams, followed growing concerns raised by members of the KuGompo community over allegations surrounding a coronation involving a Nigerian national, reportedly held on 14 March 2026.

The matter sparked widespread debate and tensions within sections of the community due to South Africa's constitutional recognition and protection of traditional leadership structures and customary governance systems. Questions surrounding the legitimacy and implications of the alleged coronation prompted calls for urgent intervention and dialogue among all affected stakeholders.

Leading the Rharhabe Kingdom delegation was His Majesty King Vululwandle Sandile, who engaged directly with representatives from the Nigerian High Commission in a meeting aimed at promoting understanding, accountability, and reconciliation.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Minister Rev Prince Burns Ndamase highlighted the importance of respecting South Africa's sovereignty, legal framework, and cultural heritage.

He emphasised that all individuals residing within the country are obligated to respect South African laws, policies, and traditional institutions, adding that any unlawful conduct must be addressed through the appropriate legal channels.

**“This engagement demonstrates that when we approach matters with respect for traditional authority, a commitment to dialogue, and adherence to the rule of law, even sensitive issues can be resolved constructively,” said the Deputy Minister.**

He further described the engagement as a positive milestone in strengthening relations between communities and promoting peaceful coexistence through mutual respect and open communication.

MEC Zolile Williams also commended the spirit of leadership and maturity displayed by all parties involved, emphasizing that dialogue remains the most effective mechanism for resolving culturally and politically sensitive matters.

Representing the Nigerian High Commission, Alexander Temitope Ajayi conveyed a formal message of apology to the Rharhabe Kingdom and the broader South African community. He reaffirmed the longstanding bilateral ties between South Africa and Nigeria and highlighted the importance of preserving unity, cooperation, and respect between the two African nations.

Ajayi noted that the Nigerian government values its relationship with South Africa and remains committed to ensuring that misunderstandings do not undermine the historical solidarity shared between the peoples of both countries.

His Majesty King Vululwandle Sandile welcomed the apology and acknowledged the importance of direct engagement in restoring trust and harmony between communities.

In a powerful and culturally symbolic act of reconciliation, members of the Nigerian community presented three cows to the AmaRharhabe Traditional Council as a gesture of goodwill, accountability, and respect.

Within many African cultural traditions, the offering of cattle carries profound significance, symbolizing reconciliation, honour, and the restoration of social harmony. The gesture was widely interpreted as an affirmation of shared African values rooted in restorative justice, unity, and mutual respect.

Observers and community leaders have since praised the engagement as an example of how traditional institutions, government leadership, and diplomatic representatives can collaboratively address tensions through peaceful dialogue and cultural understanding.

The meeting is expected to contribute positively toward strengthening social cohesion in the Eastern Cape while reinforcing the importance of respecting traditional governance systems protected under South Africa's Constitution.

As discussions continue, stakeholders expressed optimism that the engagement will pave the way for deeper cooperation between local communities and foreign nationals living in South Africa, anchored in respect for cultural protocols, the rule of law, and African solidarity.



# ACTING KING OF AMAMPONDO GOT TOOLS OF TRADE

By Vuyani Sibene

As part of government's ongoing commitment to supporting traditional leadership, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) officially handed over tools of the trade to the Acting King of AmaMpondo aseQawukeni, His Majesty Dumelani Daluxolo Sigcau, on 13 May 2026.

Representing MEC for Cogta, Chief Director for Institutional Support Dumza Vuba highlighted that these resources including a vehicle, chairs, and cleaning materials are provided under the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act and the National Handbook for Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders. The initiative ensures standardized support for traditional leaders, enhancing their operational capacity and service delivery.

“The department has prioritized the provision of essential tools of trade for traditional leaders to strengthen community administration and improve service delivery,” said Ms. Vuba.

The Acting King expressed heartfelt appreciation, noting that while traditional leaders are sometimes marginalized, they remain central figures in their communities. He praised MEC Williams, Head of Department Vuyo Mlokothe, and Cogta management for their swift action.

“In fact, I was not aware it would be this quick. Currently, there will be a meeting in Mzamba for the Traditional Leaders' Summit, of which I will be travelling with this powerful vehicle,” said King Sigcau.

The AmaMpondo community warmly welcomed the gesture, describing the provision of a vehicle as a significant relief and a positive step toward empowering traditional leadership. The chairs will also be used in ongoing community meetings, further



L-R Chief Director Traditional Institutional Support Ms Dumza Vuba ,Senior Traditional Leader Chief Ngubezizwe Sigcau, Acting King Dumelani Daluxolo Sigcau ,Amafaku Royal Family Chairperson Prince Seyiso Cetywayo,

# Z FOLDER FORM ROLLOUT SUPPORTS SAFE INITIATION PRACTICES ACROSS THE PROVINCE

By: Anelisa Mabece

Members and officials of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San leaders embarked on a provincial awareness campaign of the Z Folder form for the initiation process, last month. The exercise is part and parcel of the delegation of functions by the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) and the gazette on the determination of initiation fees.

This integrated documentation system combines all essential initiation compliance documents into one accessible folder, making the process easier and more efficient for candidates, traditional surgeons, and initiation school operators. The Provincial rollout also includes the application forms required for individuals seeking permission to operate initiation schools, together with the official initiation fees.

The Director of House Secretariat, Mr Vuyo Stofile said the programme is currently being implemented across all eight district and Metros of the Eastern Cape.

“The introduction of the Z Folder forms is aimed at enhancing the safety and protection of initiates by strengthening compliance measures and ensure that all prescribed protocols are strictly observed throughout the initiation process,” said Mr Stofile.

He added that the initiative represents an important step towards modernising administrative processes while preserving the dignity, integrity, and cultural significance of customary initiation practices. However, he added that the success of the rollout depends on active community participation.

“Amakhankatha, Iingcibi, families, and broader community stakeholders are encouraged to play an active role in the programme to promote effective information sharing and implement practical measures that help reduce risks associated with initiation practices, particularly those contributing to initiate fatalities,” said Mr Stofile.



L-R: Speaker of KSD Municipality Cllr Nomamfengu Siyo-Sokutu and Deputy Chairperson of the HOTKL, Nkosi Gwazinamba Matanzima

# MEC WILLIAMS CHARTS ROAD MAP TOWARDS 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

By Sabo Dlelengana



L-R Executive Mayor of Joe Gqabi DM, Cllr Nomvuyo Mposelwa and Nkosi Gwadiso

On 14 May 2026, the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Member of the Provincial Legislature (MPL) Zolile Williams, led a stakeholder and community engagement session in the OR Tambo District Municipality to prepare for the 2026 Local Government Elections (LGE). South Africa will hold its seventh local government elections on 04 November 2026, marking 31 years of democratic local government.

Setting the scene, MEC Williams reflected on the significance of the Africa Month and the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May 1963, describing these Continental organisations as a defining moment in Africa's collective struggle against colonialism and imperial domination.

“We are convening this dialogue to kickstart an electoral roadmap which we, as stakeholders, envisage will culminate in the delivery of free, fair and credible 2026 LGE,” said MEC Williams.

The engagement session was aimed to outline key timelines and processes for the 2026 LGE, clarify the roles of government departments, municipalities and stakeholders, encourage active citizen participation particularly among youth and first-time voters and strengthen collaboration with the IEC on voter registration and election logistics.

MEC Williams said Cogta is tasked to support preparations for elections across the province, promote civic participation, and ensure that communities are informed to participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

MEC Williams raised concerns about youth unemployment and growing political disengagement among young people while young people perceive local government as disconnected from their daily struggles relating to jobs, transport and safety.

“This disconnect has contributed to the declining voter turnout among young people and growing support for anti establishment and independent candidates, with many questioning whether municipal institutions still serve communities or political elites. The political challenges have continued fragmentation of electoral support, since the 2021 elections, resulting in some municipal councils especially in metropolitan areas being governed through unstable coalitions,” said MEC Williams.

He added that if the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry were to be extended to municipalities across the country, more serious challenges affecting local government could be exposed. MEC Williams pointed to the increasing number of service delivery protests reported daily in the media as a warning sign of deepening public frustration.

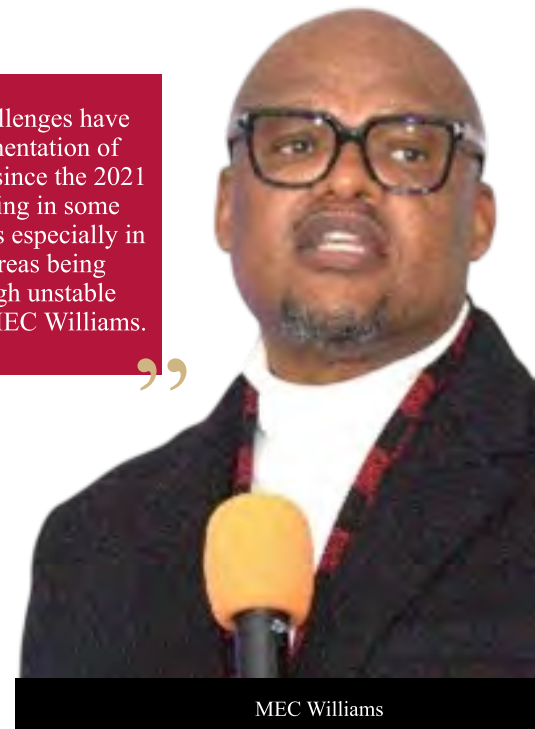
“The 2026 elections are shaping up to become a public verdict on whether local government still has the capacity, and legitimacy has to deliver services to the people,” he said.

Speaking on the role of Traditional Leaders towards the LGE 2026, the Chairperson of the EC House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso emphasised the importance of becoming ambassadors for peaceful elections, reject any political intolerance, discourage misinformation, and promote respect among all contestants and voters regardless of political affiliation.

“Our role is not to influence political choices but to encourage participation, promote peace, and safeguard the integrity of democratic processes within our communities. Every eligible citizen must be given an opportunity to make their voice heard through the ballot” said Nkosi Gwadiso.

He urged traditional leaders to mobilise communities towards voter registration, civic awareness, and peaceful participation ensuring that the elections become a model of democratic maturity, inclusivity, and social cohesion. A representative from Provincial Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Mr Mandisi Mosehana, in outlining the electoral roadmap highlighted the importance of stakeholder mobilisation, voter education, voter registration, electoral preparedness, and sustained community engagement as key pillars for a credible and inclusive electoral process.

“The political challenges have continued fragmentation of electoral support, since the 2021 elections, resulting in some municipal councils especially in metropolitan areas being governed through unstable coalitions,” said MEC Williams.



MEC Williams



# SECTION 47 ASSESSMENTS CONCLUDED TOWARDS MUNICIPAL PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

By: Sonto Malinga

The Eastern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) successfully held a week-long intensive assessment session aimed at compiling the Section 47 Consolidated Report for the 2024/25 financial year. The session marked a critical milestone in the province's ongoing efforts to strengthen municipal accountability, enhance governance, and improve service delivery outcomes.

Held as part of COGTA's constitutional oversight mandate, the assessment process involved a rigorous evaluation of annual reports submitted by municipalities across the Eastern Cape. The process ensured alignment with legislative requirements as prescribed in the Local Government Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000), while also providing a platform for honest reflection on municipal performance. The assessment brought together a wide range of technical experts from key sub-programmes, including Municipal Governance, Finance, Infrastructure, Public Participation, Spatial Planning, and Local Economic Development. This integrated approach ensured that the evaluation process was not only thorough but also balanced and informed by diverse sectoral perspectives.

Reflecting on the significance of the session, Ms. Ntombxolo Mhlaba, Director for Municipal Performance and Assessment, emphasized the strategic importance of the process. "The Section 47 assessment process serves as more than a compliance requirement, it provides a critical platform to interrogate the performance of municipalities in delivering essential services to our communities. It enables us to identify areas of excellence, while also highlighting municipalities that require targeted support and intervention," she said.

Throughout the week, robust engagements and analytical discussions were held, enabling officials to interrogate data, assess trends, and validate municipal performance reports. The outcome of these engagements contributed to the development of a credible and evidence-based Section 47 Consolidated Report. The report is expected to play a pivotal role in strengthening oversight across the local government sphere. It identifies under-performing municipalities, outlines key challenges affecting service delivery, and proposes corrective and remedial actions to address systemic weaknesses. Furthermore, it reinforces accountability by providing a structured mechanism through which municipal performance can be monitored and improved.

Ms. Mhlaba further highlighted the importance of collaboration in achieving a credible outcome, "The success of the Section 47 Report lies in the collective expertise and commitment of our teams. By consolidating inputs from various disciplines, we were able to produce a comprehensive and credible assessment that will support informed decision-making by both the provincial and national spheres of government," she noted.

She added that the ultimate objective of the process remained firmly centered on improving the lives of citizens, "Our responsibility goes beyond assessment, it is about ensuring that municipalities are empowered to deliver responsive, efficient, and sustainable services. Upon completion, the Section 47 Consolidated Report will be submitted to the Provincial Legislature, the Minister, and the National Council of Provinces, reinforcing its importance as a key instrument of accountability and cooperative governance. The insights generated through this process will guide interventions that are aimed at improving governance and accelerating service delivery across the province," she concluded.



Municipal Performance and Assessment team

# A NEW DAWN, A NEW DAY: SWEARING-IN OF NEW MEMBERS

By Anelisa Mabece

On 22 April 2026, the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders (ECHTKL) formally conducted the swearing-in ceremony of new members in the name of Nkosi Vakele Ndabeni and Nkosi Luthando Dinwayo.

During the ceremony, the members took the oath of office, pledging to obey, respect, and uphold the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and all applicable laws. This occasion signifies a renewed commitment to principled leadership, dedicated service, and the preservation and advancement of traditional governance within the province.

Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso, Chairperson of the House, welcomed the members and wished them well on their new journey. "I encourage you to uphold the highest standards of leadership, ensure that communities are well cared for, and that their voices are heard."



L-R Nkosi Gwazimba Matanzima, Nkosi Vakele Ndabeni, Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadiso and Nkosi Luthando Dinwayo

## TRUCK PROCURED FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

By Vuyani Sibene and Zethu Sonjica

The Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC), operating under Eastern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (ECCOGTA), procured a heavy-duty disaster relief truck as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the emergency response and humanitarian support capacity. The acquisition followed operational challenges experienced during flood disaster interventions in Mthatha, where the Centre faced limitations to transport and distribute large volumes of relief supplies to affected communities efficiently and within the required timeframes.

Mr Vusumzi Mgobozi, Manager Disaster Response and Recovery at the PDMC said the truck would enhance the logistical capabilities provide increased load capacity, reliability, and operational mobility during disaster response operations.

"Designed for demanding terrains and emergency deployment conditions, the vehicle is suitable for the transportation of bulk humanitarian aid, including food parcels, blankets, mattresses, bottled water, temporary shelter materials, hygiene packs, and other emergency relief all at once commodities required during floods, fires, storms, droughts, and other disaster incidents," said Mr Mgobozi

He further alluded that the vehicle features a robust heavy-duty chassis and a high-capacity loading compartment, enabling us to transport substantial quantities of relief goods in a single trip.

"This significantly improves turnaround times during emergency operations and reduces delays associated with multiple delivery trips. The truck is further equipped to operate effectively in both urban and rural environments, including hard-to-reach areas commonly affected during disasters in the province," explained Mr Mgobozi.

To ensure institutional visibility and public identification, the truck was professionally branded with the official COGTA and PDMC insignia prominently displayed on the vehicle exterior.

The branding serves not only as a representation of government's commitment to responsive disaster management services, but also enhances visibility, accountability, and public confidence during disaster relief operations throughout the Eastern Cape



Officials loading disaster relief materials



PDMC Truck



# ICT SUMMIT SPARKS NEW ERA OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By Sabo Dlelengana



Delegates from the municipal ICT summit

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) successfully hosted a two-day Municipal Information Communication Technology (ICT) Summit in Jeffreys Bay from 07–08 May 2026, bringing together municipal leaders, ICT professionals, government officials, and stakeholders from across the Eastern Cape and beyond to advance the digital transformation agenda within local government.

The summit was convened to support the implementation of the National Framework on the Professionalization of Local Government, with a strong focus not only on the recruitment of skilled municipal personnel, but also on building robust and sustainable institutional systems capable of ensuring long-term service delivery excellence.

The gathering further aimed to strengthen ICT governance, cybersecurity system integration, and digital transformation across municipalities, while encouraging collaboration and innovation in addressing the evolving challenges facing local government institutions.

Delivering the keynote address, Head of Department, Mr Vuyo Mlokothe, emphasized the critical role of the local government professionalization

framework in strengthening institutional systems and improving municipal performance. “Professionalizing local government is not only about attracting skilled personnel, but about building capable, ethical and sustainable institutions that effectively serve our communities,” said Mr Mlokothe. He highlighted the key pillars of the framework and reflected on the current challenges confronting municipalities, including capacity constraints, governance issues, rapidly evolving technological demands, and the need for resilient digital systems that support efficient and transparent service delivery.

Throughout the summit, delegates participated in impactful presentations and robust discussions focused on ICT innovation, governance, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and integrated municipal systems. One of the notable presentations was delivered by the National School of Government (NSG), which focused on the professionalization of ICT in the public sector.

The NSG presentation underscored the importance of creating public value through ICT-enabled digital service delivery, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced customer engagement. Presenters highlighted how municipalities

can leverage technology to improve responsiveness, accountability, and citizen satisfaction while strengthening internal governance systems. The summit also provided a platform for municipalities to share experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions aimed at accelerating digital transformation and improving collaboration across spheres of government.

As the summit concluded, delegates adopted critical actions and resolutions aimed at advancing ICT maturity across municipalities. These resolutions focused on strengthening cybersecurity measures, improving ICT governance frameworks, enhancing digital skills development, modernizing municipal systems, and fostering sustainable partnerships that will support ongoing transformation within local government. Officials reiterated government's commitment to building capable municipalities equipped with the necessary technological tools and professional expertise to meet the evolving needs of communities.

The successful hosting of the Municipal ICT Summit marked a significant step toward building professional, digitally capable, and future-ready municipalities that are equipped to deliver efficient and responsive services to communities across