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EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

COGTA

Newsletter

July 2026



“ Together, through collaboration, accountability and partnership, we can build capable municipalities that deliver for all
-MEC Williams- ”



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EDITORIAL COMMENT



Ms Thando Sonjica

July 2026 was a bittersweet chapter for the department, marked by the passing of Nkosi Mpumalanga Gwadi so, while the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) celebrated a significant milestone with the official signing of two strategic Memoranda of Understanding laying the groundwork for stronger collaboration and resilience.

The memorial service for Nkosi Gwadi so was more than a farewell, it was a reminder of the kind of leadership South Africa desperately needs. Nkosi Gwadi so's vision of integrating traditional leadership into democratic governance was not merely ceremonial it was a call to balance heritage with modern accountability.

Yet, as leaders celebrated his legacy, the realities of governance in Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City underscored how far municipalities still have to go. Deputy Minister Masemola and MEC Williams were right to stress collaboration over blame, but their words also carried a warning: incompetence cannot be normalized. When procurement lacks transparency, when politics meddle in administration, and when service delivery falters, communities lose faith in the very institutions meant to serve them.

The Cogta Review Session further highlighted that a clean audit may be a badge of honour, but as HoD Vuyo Mlokothe reminded us, it is only the baseline. Governance is not about ticking compliance boxes; it is about accountability that translates into tangible improvements in infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and ward committee effectiveness.

Encouragingly, the signing of strategic disaster management partnerships with AL IMDAAD Foundation and Supporting Fire Services SA shows that resilience is being built through collaboration. Similarly, the Provincial IDP Assessment demonstrated a commitment to long-term planning aligned with Vision 2030. These initiatives prove that when institutions embrace transparency, partnership, and foresight, progress is possible.

But progress requires more than plans and partnerships. It requires the kind of moral authority embodied by Nkosi Gwadi so, leadership that is humble yet bold, compassionate yet uncompromising in its pursuit of the common good. His legacy should not be confined to memorial speeches, it must be the standard against which today's leaders are measured. I encourage everyone to take a moment to explore the programmes our department has undertaken this quarter. Each initiative reflects the dedication and hard work of the department, so dive in, discover, and enjoy the journey of our collective achievements."

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

MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT FOCUSES ON SERVICE DELIVERY IN NELSON MANDELA

By Sabo Dlelengana



L- R: Deputy Minister, Dr Masemola, Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Metro, Councillor Lobishe, acting Deputy Director General -Local Governance Ms Charity Sihunu, acting Chief Director Municipal Administration and Support Ms Ntombxolo Mhlaba, Ms Nombulelo Oliphant -Chief Director Municipal Accounting and Reporting, Financial Asset &Liability Management, SCM and Asset Management.

Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, together with the MEC for the Eastern Cape Cogta, Zolile Williams, led a two-day strategic engagement with the political and administrative leadership of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMBM) in Gqeberha in July 2026. The purpose of the engagement was to assess progress made under the Section 154 support intervention and identify practical measures to strengthen governance, improve institutional capacity and accelerate service delivery across the Metro.

The strategic engagement formed part of government's ongoing support to municipalities through the Section 154 intervention, which is aimed at strengthening municipal performance and enabling municipalities to fulfil their constitutional mandate. Throughout the two-day session, national, provincial and municipal leadership reviewed progress made to date, identified challenges affecting the Metro and agreed on collaborative interventions to improve governance, financial management and service delivery.

Opening the engagement, Deputy Minister Masemola emphasised that the Section 154 intervention is not about assigning blame but about creating a collaborative platform where all spheres of government work together to build a capable, stable and responsive municipality. "The purpose of this intervention is to work together to strengthen governance, build institutional capacity and improve service delivery for the people of Nelson Mandela Bay," he said.

Supporting this message, MEC Zolile Williams urged both the political and administrative leadership of the Metro to put aside political differences and work collectively towards a common objective of delivering quality services to communities. He also encouraged the establishment of functional coalition partnerships to improve decision-making, address project delays and promote stability within the municipality.

"Together, through collaboration, accountability and partnership, we can build capable municipalities that deliver for all," said MEC Williams.

Executive Mayor Babalwa Lobishe welcomed the Ministerial delegation and expressed the Metro's appreciation for the continued support provided through the Section 154 intervention. "This strategic engagement presents an important opportunity for all the spheres of government to work together in addressing our

challenges, strengthening institutional capacity and improving the delivery of services," said Councillor Lobishe. She further committed the Metro's political and administrative leadership to implementing the agreed interventions and fostering greater collaboration to achieve sustainable improvements for the residents of Nelson Mandela Bay.

Building on the progress made during the first day, the second day of the strategic engagement focused on developing practical resolutions to strengthen governance and improve municipal performance. Deputy Minister reflected on the previous day's deliberations before outlining the priorities for the concluding session, emphasizing the need for actionable resolutions that will strengthen good governance, build institutional capacity and promote stable political and administrative leadership across metropolitan municipalities.

He further noted that rebuilding public trust is a shared responsibility and underscored the importance of functional labour forums in promoting collaboration, strengthening labour relations and supporting the long-term turnaround of municipal systems.

Providing an update on provincial interventions, MEC Williams outlined the progress achieved through the Section 154 support programme and called on leaders across all political parties to demonstrate collective leadership in advancing good governance and improving service delivery within Nelson Mandela Bay.

The MEC further called for greater transparency, accountability and prudent financial management, emphasising that procurement processes must be conducted openly and with integrity.

"I am making a call for greater transparency, accountability and prudent financial management. All tenders must be publicly advertised and administered with integrity, free from personal gain," said MEC Williams.

The two-day strategic engagement concluded with national, provincial and municipal leadership committing to continue working collaboratively to implement practical interventions that will strengthen governance, improve municipal performance and restore public confidence in local government and highlighted the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to build a capable, ethical and developmental municipality that delivers reliable, efficient and people-centred services for the residents of Nelson Mandela Bay.

HONOURING A VISIONARY LEADER: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR NKOSI MPUMALANGA GWADISO

By Vuyani Sibene



L-R O.R Tambo Mayor, Councillor Mesuli Ngqondwana, MEC Williams and Nkosi Gwadiso's family



L- R: Acting DDG Development and Planning Mr Don Nyathela , Chief Director Traditional Institutional Support Ms Dumza Vuba, acting DDG Local Governance Ms Sihunu

On 21 July 2026, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), together with the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoisan leaders (HoTKL), hosted a heartfelt memorial service at the Community Church Hall in Bhisho to celebrate the life and legacy of Nkosi Mpumalanga “Gwebingqele” Gwadiso.

Officials from the HoTKL dressed in black with white ribbons to reflect his belief in professionalism and purity in traditional leadership, gathered to pay tribute to a man remembered for his humility, compassion, and bold vision. Nkosi Gwadiso was honoured with a Special Provincial Official Funeral, Category 2, which took place on 24 July 2026.

The memorial service drew a distinguished audience, including members of the Eastern Cape Executive Council, SALGA Provincial Chairperson Councillor Mesuli Ngqondwana, chairpersons of local houses, representatives of CONTRALESA and ROLESA, municipal leadership and government officials. An audio message from the National House of Traditional and Khoisan leaders, delivered by Nkosi Langa Mavuso, underscored the national significance of Nkosi Gwadiso's contribution.

Speakers described Nkosi Gwadiso as an extraordinary leader who combined spiritual grace with courage. Councillor Ngqondwana

reflected: “We gather here today not merely to mourn, but to reminisce on the great memories of a life so well lived. He embraced all people with love, warmth, and compassion, refusing to let his royalty classify people by status.”

He emphasized Nkosi Gwadiso's philosophy of dialogue, unity, and pursuit of the common good, noting his belief in a governance system that meaningfully integrates traditional leadership into democratic structures.

Delivering the tribute, MEC Zolile Williams highlighted Nkosi's unwavering commitment to achieve zero initiation deaths in the Eastern Cape, advocating for collaboration between traditional leaders and medical professionals in monitoring customary practices.

“His passing represents a profound and debilitating loss. The extent of grief within his clan and the department of Cogta is immeasurable,” said MEC Williams.

Nkosi Gwadiso's life was celebrated as one dedicated to uplifting communities, strengthening traditional institutions, and fostering dialogue across diverse sectors. His legacy continues to inspire leaders to balance tradition with modern governance, ensuring that cultural heritage remains a cornerstone of public life.



Head of Department- Mr Vuyo Mlokothei, DDG Traditional Affairs-Mr Tandabantu Gwebindlala



Ms Ncebakazi Jaceni - Director Traditional Financial Management and Ms Ntombxolo Mtalana- General Assistant at HoTKL

Late Nkosi Gwadiso

MEC WILLIAMS WARNS LEADERSHIP AGAINST NORMALIZING INCOMPETENCE

By: Sabo Dlelengana



L- R: Executive Mayor for BCMM Councillor Faku, Deputy Minister Masemola and MEC Williams, MEC for Provincial Treasury, MPL Vuyo Mvoko and Amatola Water board Chief Executive Officer: Ms Lindokuhle Nzoyi and HOD Mlokothi

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) has confirmed its commitment to build a capable, accountable and financially sustainable municipality following a Municipal Turnaround Session held in July 2026 in East London.

The session brought together the municipality's political and administrative leadership, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), Dr Dickson Masemola, and Eastern Cape Cogta MEC Zolile Williams to review progress on BCMM's Municipal Turnaround Strategy and identify practical interventions to strengthen governance, improve financial management and enhance service delivery.

Opening the session, Executive Mayor Princess Faku highlighted the importance of cooperative governance in enabling the municipality to fulfil its constitutional mandate of delivering quality services to residents. "Collaboration and shared accountability between political and administrative leadership are essential to building a resilient institution and improving the lives of communities," said Mayor Faku.

Deputy Minister Masemola said the engagement formed part of government's ongoing efforts to support municipalities through strengthened intergovernmental relations.

"This session will provide an opportunity to assess progress made under BCMM's turnaround programme, reinforce accountability and identify priority actions that will accelerate sustainable improvements across the municipality," explained Deputy Minister.

Presenting the provincial perspective, MEC Williams reiterated the Eastern Cape Government's commitment to support the Metro to restore and strengthen its position as a leader in good governance. While acknowledging the municipality's strong governance foundation and history of unqualified audit outcomes, he stressed the importance of addressing irregular expenditure, strengthening governance systems and improving the consistency of service delivery.

He also cautioned against political interference in administrative processes.

"Officials must leave politics to politicians. Equally, politicians must not meddle in the administration processes. We must not normalize incompetence as it creates serious problems for us," MEC Williams said.

The session further reviewed progress under the Section 154 Support Programme and the Municipal Turnaround Strategy, with stakeholders identifying key priority actions aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, improving operational performance and ensuring the municipality's long-term sustainability.

While acknowledging that challenges remain, participants recognised the significant progress BCMM has made to strengthen good governance and stabilise its operations in recent years. They agreed that sustaining these gains will depend on continued accountability, effective leadership and the successful implementation of the turnaround strategy.

In his closing remarks, Deputy Minister Masemola encouraged the municipality to address all outstanding priority matters and implement a credible exit strategy that will consolidate the progress achieved and position BCMM to deliver reliable, efficient and quality services to its residents.

The session concluded with a shared commitment by national, provincial and municipal leadership to continue working in partnership to strengthen governance, enhance institutional performance and accelerate service delivery.

Through sustained collaboration and accountability, BCMM aims to build on the progress achieved and ensure lasting benefits for the communities it serves.

COGTA REVIEW SESSION IN PORT ALFRED: ACCOUNTABILITY, GOVERNANCE, AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN FOCUS

By Thando Sonjica

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) convened a one-day first quarter Review Session in Port Alfred, where the Head of Department (HoD) Mr. Vuyo Mlokothi set the tone by stressing that governance is about compliance only it involves more than that.

“This session is not just about compliance. It is about accountability, reflection, and continuous improvement. As the leadership, we carry the responsibility to drive results and ensure the delivery of our constitutional mandate,” he said.

Mr Mlokothi announced that the draft Audit Report presented earlier in the day showed the department was on track to secure another clean audit outcome for the 2025/2026 financial year. He cautioned, however, that “a clean audit is not the destination but rather a minimum requirement for ethical and effective governance.”

He emphasized that the department's resilient systems must be mirrored at municipal level. “The departmental audit status must be translated to the municipalities.”

The HoD acknowledged areas needing improvement, particularly infrastructure spending.

“Considering the current status, we are not doing well under the infrastructure spending and this needs to improve by closer monitoring of grants through the Risk Adjusted Strategy (RAS) and improved utilization of disaster management funds.”

On municipal finances, he added: “There is a need to strengthen municipal revenue collection, improve debt management, and provide targeted support to municipalities with poor audit outcomes to enhance financial sustainability.”

Panel discussions highlighted challenges in local governance, especially the functionality of Ward Committees. Mr. Mboniswa Nodlabi, Chief Director for Municipal Public Participation, noted: “Ward Committees for now function on compliance matters. The non-adherence to by-laws, vandalism, as well as poor infrastructure are some of the things that show that Ward Committees are not effective.”

The Acting Deputy Director General (DDG) for Local Governance, Ms. Charity Sihunu, added: “There needs to be a change of the landscape on who should be in the Ward Committee. I encourage colleagues to participate in the process of electing Ward Committees in their residential areas.”



L-R Director-Disaster Operations Mr Philela Mabandla, Chief Director-Municipal Development and Planning: Mr Zipho Xokozela

On Disaster Preparedness and Sustainable Development discussions focused on disaster risk management, local economic development initiatives, and the role of integrated planning in building resilient communities.

As part of strengthening support to the provinces on the customary initiation programme, Mr Mlokothi advised that the National Department of Traditional Affairs (DTA) submitted a proposal for financial support to the, Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHS SETA) which was subsequently approved.

“A team within the Traditional Affairs Branch was nominated to work with DTA on this project and this is still work in progress,” he said.

The DDG for Traditional Affairs Mr Tandabantu Gwebindlala led a panel discussion focusing on strengthening governance and financial reporting in Traditional Councils. He highlighted how improved reporting enhances “governance, financial management, and public confidence in traditional institutions.”

The Review Session balanced recognition of achievements such as the department's clean audit prospects with candid reflection on persistent challenges, including infrastructure underspending and weak ward committee effectiveness.

As Mr. Mlokothi reminded attendees: “Accountability must be real, not theoretical.”



L-R; Director Alfred Nzo DSC, Mr Mawethu Pinyana, Director Sarah Baartman and Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, Mr Mzwakhe Clay, Director Amathole and Buffalo City Metro municipality, Ms Vuyokazi Mbelani, Deputy Director Joe Gqabi DSC, Mr Khaya Singiswa, acting Director Chris Hani DSC, Ms Andiswa Gewabe, O.R.Tambo DSC Mr Nelisile Xolo



DDG Traditional Affairs: Mr Gwebindlala, Chief Director Traditional Institutional Support Ms Dumza Vuba, Director Traditional Leadership Rural Development Facilitation, Mlungiseleli Dyantyi - Director Rural Development Facilitation & Director – Provincial House Administration -Ms Pamella Ndudane

A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR A RESILIENT EASTERN CAPE

By Ziphozethu Sonjica

The Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) marked a significant milestone on 28 July 2026 with the official signing of two strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the Eastern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), the AL IMDAAD Foundation, and Supporting Fire Services South Africa (SFS SA).

Hosted by Deputy Director for Fire and Rescue Services Mr John Alexander, the ceremony brought together government leaders, disaster management practitioners, emergency response professionals, municipal representatives, and development partners committed to strengthening disaster resilience across the province.

Delivering the keynote address, acting Deputy Director General (DDG) for Development and Planning Mr Don Nyatela, reaffirmed that the partnerships represent a strategic investment in the province's disaster management capacity. He noted that increasing risks associated with rapid urbanisation, climate change, drought, severe storms and fire incidents demand a coordinated, multi-sectoral response founded on collaboration, innovation and shared accountability.

“The agreements seek to strengthen municipal fire services, enhance Urban Search and Rescue capabilities, improve emergency response planning, expand simulation exercises, promote disaster risk education, and improve the coordination and deployment of specialised response resources. The partnerships will also support climate-responsive planning and budgeting to ensure disaster preparedness remains integrated into long-term provincial development priorities,” explained Mr Nyatela.

Mr Nyatela further emphasised the importance of drawing on the expertise of the education sector, private sector and non-governmental organisations, acknowledging their critical contribution through research, evidence-based advice, innovation and community awareness.

“These partnerships must ultimately serve the people of the Eastern Cape by improving service delivery while maintaining the highest standards of governance and accountability,” he said.

Representatives from the AL IMDAAD Foundation reaffirmed their commitment to supporting communities across the province, advocating for a proactive rather than reactive approach to disaster management.

Supporting Fire Services South Africa similarly pledged its commitment to strengthening existing emergency services through technical support, training and operational collaboration, rather than replacing established municipal structures.

The agreements will remain in force for five years with the AL IMDAAD Foundation and three years with SFS SA, providing a sustainable framework for collaboration that will benefit municipalities and communities throughout the Eastern Cape.

The ceremony concluded in an atmosphere of optimism and shared purpose, with stakeholders united in their commitment to building safer, more resilient communities. The presence of long-serving emergency service professionals, including senior leadership from Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Fire Services, reflected the collective experience and dedication behind this partnership.

The signing of these Memoranda of Understanding signals more than the formalisation of partnerships it represents a renewed commitment to coordinated governance, strengthened institutional capacity and collective action in protecting lives, safeguarding infrastructure and ensuring that no community is left behind in the face of disaster.



Front Row L-R: Mr Mohammed Patel of Al Imdaad Foundation, Mr Nyatela and Ms Claire Lotter of Supporting Fire Services South Africa & representatives from the three Institutions.



PROVINCIAL IDP ASSESSMENT TOWARDS MUNICIPAL PLANNING

By Ziphazethu Sonjica

The Eastern Cape Provincial Government commenced the 2026 Provincial Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Assessment, by reaffirming its commitment to strengthen municipal planning, improve governance and advance the objectives of the Provincial Vision 2030. The assessment which took place at end of July 2026 in East London, was conducted in accordance with Section 31 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000).

The assessment commenced with the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality and the Amathole District Municipality, with proceedings hosted at the Mandla Makuphula Leadership Institute and Palm Square.

Over the five-day programme, municipalities underwent a comprehensive assessment and quality assurance process across six Key Performance Areas (KPA's): Spatial Planning, Land and Human Settlements; Service Delivery and Infrastructure Planning; Municipal Finance; Local Economic Development; Good Governance and Public Participation; and Institutional Arrangements. The assessment provided a strategic platform to evaluate the credibility, responsiveness and implementation of municipal Integrated Development Plans while strengthening intergovernmental collaboration and institutional accountability.

Dr Fundiswa Gxabuza, the Director for Integrated Development Planning Coordination (IDPC) said despite the significance of the exercise, the atmosphere has been characterised by professionalism, constructive engagement and a shared commitment to continuous improvement.

"The active participation of municipal representatives and sector stakeholders reflects government's collective resolve to build capable, ethical and developmental local government institutions that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people of the Eastern Cape," said Dr Gxabuza.

She further said the IDP Assessment stands as a powerful demonstration of cooperative governance in action, reinforcing the province's unwavering commitment to institutional excellence and service delivery improvement.

"The spirit of togetherness, mutual accountability and developmental focus evident throughout the sessions reflects a collective, responsive and sustainable municipalities," said Dr Gxabuza.

The IDP assessment continues to inspire confidence in the province's trajectory towards achieving the aspirations of Vision 2030, ensuring that governance remains firmly anchored in transparency, performance and the upliftment of communities across the Eastern Cape.

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Officials from the department of Cogta and municipalities during the assessment sessions.

DID YOU KNOW ?

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- The media engagement function is allocated to the Directorate of Communication Management in collaboration with the Media Liaison Officer (MLO) in the Office of the MEC. Both officials are the points of entry for any media related issues affecting the department and commentary related thereto.
- All communication with the news media including media releases, statements, interviews, news conferences and briefings, letters to the editor, opinion pieces (op eds), technical announcements and other information or material given to news media representatives, fall under the media engagement activities of the Directorate and the MLO.
- Therefore, no official of the department including in the District Support Centres (DSCs) is allowed to speak to the media without the approval of the Head of Department (HoD).

Source. Departmental Corporate Communication Policy

A GENERATION CALLED TO RISE: COGTA IGNITES THE FUTURE

By Zethu Sonjica

Against the tranquil backdrop of the Indian Ocean at St Andrew's Hotel in Port Alfred, a powerful conversation unfolded on 26 June 2026, one that may well shape the future trajectory of a generation of young public servants in the Eastern Cape. Writes Ziphozethu Sonjica

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), through its Strategic Management and Planning Directorate convened its inaugural Youth Development Forum (YDF) Youth Empowerment Session, bringing together young professionals under one roof to engage on issues central to their personal, professional and socio-economic advancement. More than just another departmental gathering, the session became a movement of introspection, aspiration and transformation. Leading from the front were the department's political and administrative leadership, the Executive Authority, MEC Zolile Williams, and Head of Department, Mr Vuyo Mlokothe, whose presence symbolised COGTA's unwavering commitment to investing in its most valuable asset, its people. From the onset, the atmosphere was charged with optimism and purpose.

In his opening remarks, Mr Mlokothe welcomed participants with heartfelt reflections that transcended the traditional boundaries of leadership. Speaking not merely as the Accounting Officer of the department, but as a mentor and father figure, he challenged young employees to intentionally build sustainable futures through continuous learning, professional excellence and social intelligence. "The future belongs to those who prepare for it today," he emphasised, encouraging the youth to remain positively visible within the workplace, cultivate meaningful relationships, develop critical skills and position themselves as ethical leaders of tomorrow. His message on Sustainable Futures, Building Skills, Wellness and Economic Inclusion resonated deeply with participants, many of whom reflected on the importance of becoming active architects of their own destinies.

Delivering the keynote address, MEC Williams captivated the audience with a candid and thought-provoking message on financial freedom and economic empowerment. In a conversation that struck at the heart of many societal realities, the MEC challenged prevailing mindsets among young Africans regarding money and wealth creation. "Our culture has, in many instances,

normalised immediate gratification," he noted. "We often prioritise expensive lifestyles and social status over long-term financial security. That narrative must change," said MEC.

The MEC urged young people to think beyond earning a monthly salary and instead embrace entrepreneurship, investment and wealth creation as pathways towards generational prosperity. His call was clear: financial independence begins with informed choices. The empowerment session subsequently delved into practical discussions on financial planning, investment literacy and property investment. Experts highlighted how early financial discipline, strategic saving and prudent investment decisions made in one's twenties could fundamentally alter an individual's quality of life by retirement age. Participants were encouraged to view themselves as investments assets whose greatest returns are realised through education, skills development, disciplined financial behaviour and lifelong learning.

The forum further strengthened institutional governance by unpacking the background and purpose of the Youth Development Forum, introducing the YDF Executive Committee and outlining its portfolios, roles and responsibilities. Mr Willie Galli, Director for Strategic Management and Planning provided a comprehensive overview of leadership expectations, decision-making processes and the strategic role of the YDF in championing youth development within COGTA. As discussions evolved, participants openly reflected on workplace realities, career aspirations and challenges confronting young professionals in the public sector. Their voices painted a picture of a generation eager to innovate, lead and contribute meaningfully to developmental local government.

Adding further inspiration to the day was an empowering address by COGTA's Chief Director: Strategy and Systems, Dr Siviwe Mditshwa, whose personal journey of resilience and perseverance left a lasting impression on attendees. Dr Mditshwa encouraged young people to continuously invest in their education, maintain a teachable spirit and approach life's challenges with optimism. "Always look at the glass half-full," he advised. "Do not condemn yourselves because of setbacks. Every challenge presents an opportunity to grow," said Dr Mditshwa.



Attendees of the session