



MEDIA ADVISORY

Attention: Journalists and News Editors

Issued by: Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities

Monday, 26 January 2026

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CHIKUNGA LEADS BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN AND YOUTH WORKSHOP & EXHIBITION IN uMSHWATHI

Pretoria: The Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, **Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga**, will on **Tuesday, 27 January 2026**, lead a **Back-to-School Campaign and Youth Workshop & Exhibition** in **uMshwathi Local Municipality**, KwaZulu-Natal. The programme forms part of government's national Back-to-School Campaign and places emphasis on **learner dignity, institutional oversight, youth development pathways, and coordinated support for young people** at the start of the 2026 academic year.

Minister Chikunga will be joined by the **Mayor of uMshwathi Local Municipality, Cllr Mandla Zondi**, and the **Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Dr Sunshine Myende**, alongside representatives from national, provincial and local government, traditional leadership, and key youth-serving institutions.

The programme will include:

- Closed institutional **oversight engagements** with school leadership and governing bodies.
- Learner engagements and the **handover of school shoes and dignity packs** to identified learners in need.
- A **Youth Workshop and Exhibition** at the Coastal TVET College (Appelsbosch Campus), bringing together youth, government entities and development partners to share information on skills development, entrepreneurship, employment pathways and support programmes.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Tuesday, 27 January 2026 | 07:00 – 14:00 | uMshwathi Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal

Programme Outline:

- **07:00 – 09:00:** Empolweni High School – Oversight engagement and learner programme
- **10:00 – 12:00:** Asamkele Primary School – Oversight engagement and learner programme
- **10:00 – 14:00:** Coastal TVET College (Appelsbosch Campus) – Youth Workshop & Exhibition and Ministerial engagement

As the Minister responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Minister Chikunga continues to prioritise **early intervention, learner dignity, youth empowerment and multi-sectoral coordination**, recognising that education and skills development remain central to breaking cycles of poverty and inequality.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the engagements.

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Media Enquiries Contact: **Nompendulo Mkhathshwa**, Spokesperson for the Ministry in the Presidency for Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities (**083 406 6496** / Nompendulo.mkhathshwa@dwypd.gov.za) | **Cassius Selala**, Head of Communications, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, at (**060 534 0672**/ cassius.selala@dwypd.gov.za)

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