



economic development & tourism

Department:
Economic Development & Tourism
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

ISSUE

01

Quarter 1 | 2025/26

ECON NEWS

Official Publication of the
Department of Economic Development and Tourism



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Editors Note
2. South Africa Reverses 0.5% VAT Increase, Easing Pressure on Consumers
3. Cleaning Services Tender Information Session
4. GEMS Wellness Day Promotes Health and Relaxation
5. Empowering Future Media Leaders: Imprint Media Launches Skills Development Programme
6. First-Ever G20 Planning Summit Held In The Northern Cape
7. June 16 Youth Day - "Gear Up for Greatness"
8. Consumer Protection Authority Routine Inspections In Pixley Ka Seme Region
9. Empowering Youth Through Technology: Software Development Programme Launches in Kimberley
10. Northern Cape: Powering Africa's Green Hydrogen Future
11. Skateboarding for Hope Ignites Youth Potential and Community Spirit in the Northern Cape
12. Moments from Our Youth Day Celebration
13. Backyard Farming: Cultivating Hope, One Seed at a Time
14. Welcome And Bidding Farewell

EDITORS NOTE

- *Ms Thandi Modibela*



The first quarter of 2025 presented a complex economic landscape for the Northern Cape, marked by progress in key sectors and persistent structural challenges. While South Africa's economy grew marginally by 0.1%, the province entered the year following a projected 0.2% contraction in 2024. This backdrop underscores a dual narrative: strong sectoral performance in agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy on one side; rising unemployment and deep-seated inequalities on the other.

Agriculture continues to demonstrate its resilience as a key driver of employment and stability. In Q1 2025, the sector added 10,000 jobs, a remarkable 19.7% increase from the previous quarter, supported by strong national trends in horticulture and animal production. Tourism also performed strongly, contributing 6.8% to provincial GDP and achieving R10.7 billion in visitor spending during 2023. These successes, alongside significant renewable energy investments in Loeriesfontein and Noupoort, reinforce the province's role as a leader in the energy transition and as a destination of choice for eco-tourism and scientific exploration.

Yet, these gains are counterbalanced by labour market vulnerabilities. A net loss of 12,000 jobs in Q1 saw the official unemployment rate rise to 29.5%, with the expanded rate reaching 43.0%. Youth unemployment, while high at 40.6%, is the second-lowest nationally and shows progress through a 4.0 percentage point drop in the NEET rate year-on-year to Q4 2024. These figures underline both the urgency and the opportunity for targeted interventions.

Importantly, Q1 also coincided with key moments of reflection and renewal. Easter celebrations brought communities together in faith and resilience, while preparations for Youth Month and June 16 Youth Day highlighted the province's commitment to empowering its youth. These events remind us that economic development is not only about numbers—it is about people, communities, and shared progress.

The provincial government's Jobs Plan stands out as a pioneering intervention—providing a first-of-its-kind strategic framework to align public and private sector efforts in unlocking inclusive job creation. As the province advances catalytic initiatives such as Operation Phakisa, the Green Hydrogen Programme, the Northern Cape Industrial Corridor, and the rollout of Special Economic Zones, the focus must remain on translating large-scale investments into tangible, grassroots benefits.

Moving forward, tackling district-level disparities will be critical. While Pixley ka Seme shows encouraging resilience, areas like Namakwa continue to struggle with contraction. A differentiated approach, sensitive to local dynamics, will be essential to ensuring that no community is left behind in the province's growth story.

The coming second quarter will see us celebrating the Month of Tata Nelson Mandela in July , Woman's Month Celebrations in August, Tourism and Heritage in September 2025.

The task ahead is clear: To harness the Northern Cape's abundant resources and innovative potential to build a resilient, inclusive economy—one where all residents, especially the youth, actively participate in and benefit from sustainable development.

South Africa Reverses 0.5% VAT Increase, Easing Pressure on Consumers



South African consumers have welcomed the recent decision by Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana to reverse the planned 0.5% increase in Value-Added Tax (VAT). The increase, which would have raised VAT from 15% to 15.5% starting May 1, was expected to make everyday goods and services more expensive for households across the country.

The reversal brings relief to millions of South Africans, particularly low- and middle-income families who are already struggling with the rising cost of living. Essentials such as food, clothing, transport, and electricity would have been directly affected by the VAT hike, placing further strain on household budgets.

Retailers and service providers had already begun preparing for the change, but the South African Revenue Service (SARS) has since issued guidance to help businesses revert smoothly to the current 15% rate. Although this move creates a gap in the national budget, the government has assured the public that steps will be taken to manage the shortfall without placing the burden on consumers.

Overall, the reversal has been seen as a consumer-friendly decision, offering immediate financial relief and helping to maintain spending power in a challenging economic environment.



Cleaning Services Tender Information Session

The recent Cleaning Services Tender Information Session was a resounding success, drawing in more than 40 local SMMEs eager to gain insight into government procurement processes and prepare for upcoming tender opportunities.

Hosted as part of our ongoing commitment to enterprise development, the session focused on equipping small businesses with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively respond to cleaning services tenders.

Key Presentations

Central Supplier Database (CSD):

The CSD team provided a comprehensive overview of:

- Supplier registration and renewal processes
- Compliance requirements essential for government tenders
- Maintaining accurate and updated company profiles

ABSA Bank:

Representatives from ABSA presented on:

- Purchase order (PO) requirements
- The importance of financial readiness
- Understanding payment processes and documentation required for successful delivery on POs

These presentations gave attendees valuable, practical advice to strengthen their readiness and competitiveness in the tender space.

Empowering Local Enterprises:

The session is part of our strategy to:

- Promote inclusive economic growth
- Ensure fair access to opportunities for small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs)
- Build stronger relationships between government, the private sector, and local businesses

We were inspired by the high level of interest and engagement from attendees, reflecting a strong drive among SMMEs to grow and participate in public sector opportunities.

Acknowledgements:

We extend our sincere thanks to:

- All participating SMMEs
- Our partners from CSD and ABSA Bank
- Everyone who contributed to the success of the session



Together, we are creating pathways for economic empowerment and sustainable growth within our communities.

GEMS Wellness Day Promotes Health and Relaxation



On 12 June 2025, staff came together for a refreshing and uplifting GEMS Wellness Day — a special initiative dedicated to promoting physical and mental well-being in the workplace.

The day featured a variety of health screenings, including blood pressure, glucose, and BMI tests, aimed at encouraging healthier lifestyle choices and raising awareness about personal health. These services were well-received by staff, who appreciated the opportunity to check in on their well-being in a convenient and supportive environment.

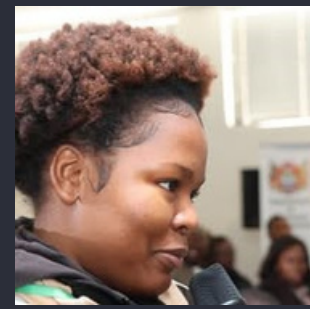
A standout feature of the day was the neck and shoulder massages, which quickly became a crowd favourite. The relaxing treatments offered a welcome break from busy schedules, helping staff ease tension and recharge both physically and mentally.

GEMS Wellness Day reminded us all of the importance of self-care and taking proactive steps towards a healthier, balanced life. We extend our sincere thanks to GEMS and the health professionals who made this day possible.

Here's to more wellness-focused events in the future — because a healthy team is a happy team!



Empowering Future Media Leaders: Imprint Media Launches Skills Development Programme



On 10 June 2025, Imprint Media, in partnership with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, officially launched a two-month Media & Production Skills Development Initiative aimed at empowering aspiring media personalities.

The initiative is designed to equip young creatives with practical skills in media production, storytelling, content creation, and presenting. Through hands-on training, mentorship, and real-world media experience, participants will gain the tools and confidence needed to thrive in South Africa's evolving media landscape.

“This programme is about more than just training,” said an Imprint Media representative. “It’s about opening doors, nurturing raw talent, and shaping the future of local media.”

The two-month programme will feature workshops, on-set training, and exposure to radio, TV, and digital platforms. By investing in the youth, this initiative contributes to both economic development and cultural expression — creating a pipeline for future industry leaders.

We look forward to witnessing the journey and growth of these talented individuals over the coming weeks.

Stay tuned for updates and success stories as we shine a light on the next generation of storytellers!



FIRST-EVER G20 PLANNING SUMMIT HELD IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

The Northern Cape hosted its first-ever G20 Planning Summit on 17–18 June 2025, marking a historic moment for inclusive, long-term development planning in South Africa. Held at Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley, the summit brought together national government leaders, academics, civil society, youth, and international development partners.

Themed “Charting South Africa’s Future: A Call for Collaborative Long-Term Planning as a Foundation for Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability,” the summit placed the Northern Cape at the heart of the national agenda in the lead-up to G20 South Africa 2025.

G20
OUTH AFRICA 2025



Premier Dr. Zamani Saul opened the summit by highlighting the importance of forging a shared national vision, grounded in local realities and global commitments. “It is here, in the provinces, where real development must happen,” he noted. “Planning for the long-term cannot remain a national task alone—it must be a collective, participatory effort.”

Sol Plaatje University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Prof Paul Green, echoed this sentiment in his message of support:

“It’s fitting that a summit on inclusive, long-term planning is held at an institution rooted in transformation and democratic ideals. As an anchor institution in the Northern Cape, SPU drives spatial transformation, innovation, job creation and economic growth. We are fully committed to collaborative development.”

The Summit’s first day saw distinguished voices reflect on South Africa’s development priorities, exploring the role of education, climate justice, economic resilience, and youth empowerment in shaping a just transition.

As the discussions continue, the G20 Planning Summit sets the tone for how provincial and national actors can align policy, planning and partnerships for a shared, sustainable future.



The Northern Cape marked Youth Day 2025 with a vibrant programme of events under the national theme: “Skills for the Changing World: Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation.”

Provincial Commemoration in Roodepan

On Monday, 16 June, Premier Dr. Zamani Saul led the official Youth Day commemoration at Lucretia Primary School in Roodepan, Kimberley. The event brought together community members, Government stakeholders, and youth for a day of inspiration and engagement.

Event Highlights:

Motivational speeches and cultural performances celebrating youth resilience and talent.

Active participation by Government Departments such as SASSA and Home Affairs, who provided on-site services to the community.

Three young trailblazers each received R100 000 from the Northern Cape Provincial Government to grow their small businesses.

The 2025 Youth Day celebration in the Northern Cape served as a powerful reminder of the Province’s commitment to investing in young people and shaping a future driven by skills, opportunity, and unity.



**June 16 Youth Day
“Gear Up for
Greatness”**



CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY ROUTINE INSPECTIONS IN PIXLEY KA SEME REGION

The Northern Cape Consumer Protection Authority's responsibility is to promote and advance the social and economic welfare of consumers within the province, ensuring their rights are protected as outlined in the Consumer Protection Act. This includes investigating, mediating, adjudicating, and conducting compliance inspections for any alleged infringements of consumer rights.

Northern Cape Consumer Protection Authority had education and awareness outreach programmes throughout the Pixley Ka Seme District where a week of awareness campaigning and compliance inspections in Colesburg, Richmond, Hanover, Britstown and De Aar were conducted. During this week a number of about 70 Tuckshops were visited where 16 of those tuckshops were issued with non-compliance notices.

A total number of about 88-door to door people were reached as part of education awareness campaign including 5 different schools that were visited in the area.

It was during this time that a video of our officials was circulated on our social media platform that created a lot of dialogue regarding the numerous ill practices from Tuckshop owners regarding mostly about the extra charge on airtime, electricity and money withdrawals from these establishments.

We understand that some customers have recently raised concerns about the above-mentioned problems even the ones that are not within our jurisdiction. The NCA will investigate complaints, facilitates dispute resolution, and will refer cases to the Northern Cape Consumer Court (NCCC) for adjudication when necessary. The NCCC has the power to declare violations, order corrective actions, and impose penalties. Our priority is to ensure customer satisfaction, and we are committed to finding a satisfactory resolution for all concerned.

The Authority collaborates with the National Consumer Commission (NCC) to ensure consistent enforcement of consumer protection laws. The Consumer Protection Act (CPA) aims to protect consumers from unfair business practices. It grants consumers rights, including the right to fair value, good quality, and safe products. The NCC is responsible for enforcing the CPA and ensuring that suppliers comply with its provisions.



Empowering Youth Through Technology: Software Development Programme Launches in Kimberley



On 12 April 2025, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, in proud partnership with mLab and CodeTribe, officially launched an exciting new initiative aimed at developing digital skills and empowering the youth of the Northern Cape.

Held at the Galeshewe SMME Village in Kimberley, the event marked the induction of 15 dedicated and ambitious young individuals into a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 5 software development programme. This comprehensive training programme will span 12 months, offering participants a strong foundation in software development, coding, and digital innovation.

What sets this programme apart is the hybrid support system provided by online industry experts and on-site facilitators, ensuring that learners receive both technical guidance and mentorship. The training is designed not only to build coding proficiency but also to encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation—key attributes in today’s tech-driven economy.

The initiative aligns with the Department's ongoing mission to stimulate economic growth, reduce youth unemployment, and bridge the digital divide. By equipping these learners with in-demand skills, the programme opens doors to career opportunities in the tech industry, both locally and globally.

As these young software developers embark on this transformative journey, we look forward to witnessing their progress and celebrating their successes along the way. Their growth is not only a personal achievement but a promising sign for the future of digital innovation in the Northern Cape.

Together, we are building a smarter, more connected future.



GREEN H₂ HYDROGEN GREEN

Northern Cape: Powering Africa's Green Hydrogen Future

The Africa Green Hydrogen Summit (AGHS), held in Cape Town from 11–13 June 2025, marked a significant milestone—not just for the continent, but especially for South Africa. As the graduate version of the previous South African Green Hydrogen Summits (2022 and 2023), this year's platform elevated the conversation from national aspiration to continental execution, spotlighting Africa's readiness to take the lead in the global green hydrogen economy.

South Africa Leading Africa's Green Hydrogen Agenda

President Cyril Ramaphosa reaffirmed South Africa's pivotal role in advancing a just energy transition. The Hydrogen South Africa (HySA) programme—now backed by over R1.4 billion in investment—is creating the industrial and research foundation to support both domestic innovation and export-driven growth. Ongoing policy reforms, including enhanced wheeling regulations and the Renewable Energy Master Plan, are unlocking new private sector investment across the hydrogen value chain.

The Northern Cape: Our Emerging Hydrogen Powerhouse – “from Powerpoint to Gigawatts”

Among the strongest signals at AGHS25 was the elevation of the Northern Cape as the epicentre of South Africa's green hydrogen future. Presented by Mr. Shawn Modise, Acting CEO of the Northern Cape Economic Development Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (NCEDA), the province's Green Hydrogen Master Plan is now internationally recognised as a model of regional readiness.

At the core of this strategy is the Boegoebaai Green Hydrogen Development Programme—the anchor project of the province's green hydrogen ambitions.

This programme has not only catalysed multilateral engagement across government and state-owned entities but is driving the formulation and finalisation of the Northern Cape Green Hydrogen Master Plan.

Strategic Environmental Assessment: A Game-Changer

The imminent completion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Boegoebaai development zone is expected to significantly de-risk the investment landscape, supporting:

- Inner Battery Limits (IBL): Siting and feasibility for gigawatt-scale factories and hydrogen/ammonia production plants.
- Outer Battery Limits (OBL): Infrastructure planning for transmission lines and renewable generation across Namakwa District and the Gazetted Energy Corridors.

From Corridor to Catalyst: Regional and Continental Integration

The summit further recognised the Northern Cape's strategic role in the emerging green hydrogen export corridor, linking with the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Namibia.

National and international investors underscored their interest in the province, citing:

- Strong government commitment to de-risking critical infrastructure (rail, port, energy grid);
- Clear localisation targets and SME support mechanisms;
- A province-wide commitment to community upliftment, youth inclusion, and skills development.

Project Spotlight: Prieska Power Reserve

Also showcased at AGHS25 was the Prieska Power Reserve, led by black women-owned investment firm Mahlako a Phahla.

This transformative green ammonia project has:

- Secured environmental authorisations and water licences.
- Received funding support from KfW Development Bank and IDC;
- Targeted over 70,000 tonnes per annum of green ammonia in its first phase, scaling to 500,000 tonnes by 2030;
- Prioritised inclusive procurement, youth and women employment, and community ownership.

Way Forward: From Vision to Implementation

The Africa Green Hydrogen Summit affirmed that Africa is ready to lead—and that the Northern Cape is ready to power it.

To advance this vision, key next steps include:

- Finalising long-term off-take agreements;
- Unlocking blended finance and PPP-led delivery models;
- Embedding green hydrogen within the province's industrial policy as a catalyst for inclusive growth and infrastructure expansion.

Conclusion

With Boegoebaai as its industrial anchor and the Northern Cape Green Hydrogen Master Plan nearing operational readiness, the province is no longer just a prospect—it is a hydrogen frontier. Let us now shift decisively from planning to execution, ensuring that the green hydrogen economy delivers lasting economic transformation for the Northern Cape and positions it as a global benchmark for green industrialisation.



Skateboarding for Hope Ignites Youth Potential and Community Spirit in the Northern Cape

In a powerful display of energy, talent, and transformation, the Skateboarding for Hope initiative captivated communities across the Northern Cape in 2025, culminating in an exhilarating finale on Sunday, 29 June at the iconic Kimberley Skate Plaza. Over 40 young skaters from towns across the province competed in what became more than just a competition—it turned into a celebration of possibility.

Led by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, in partnership with the Northern Cape Provincial Government, Skateboarding for Hope was created to act as a catalyst for youth empowerment, social cohesion, and economic inclusion. And it succeeded.

From 31 May, the programme was rolled out across Springbok, Upington, De Aar, and Kuruman—transforming skate parks into platforms of purpose. In each town, the message was clear: the youth of the Northern Cape are not just dreamers—they are doers, creators, and emerging leaders.

Young people received mentorship from some of South Africa's finest, including Jean-Marc Johannes, the country's first to win gold, silver, and bronze medals at an international skateboard competition, and Boipelo Awuah, an Olympian who continues to push boundaries. Their presence provided inspiration and practical guidance, demonstrating that with dedication and opportunity, even global stages are attainable.

But Skateboarding for Hope was never solely about tricks and trophies. It was about giving young people a reason to believe in themselves and their communities. The open sessions, clinics, and competitions offered more than just technical skills—they built confidence, encouraged creativity, and planted the seeds for future careers in sport, tourism, and entrepreneurship.

The Kimberley grand finale was a breathtaking conclusion to a journey that touched lives and ignited hope across the province. With total prize money exceeding R80,000, Nacho and Letsile each received R5,000 as first-prize winners in the women's and men's categories of the Skateboarding for Hope final. Amid enthusiastic cheers and spinning wheels, the event confirmed that the Northern Cape is rapidly becoming a leading destination for extreme sport tourism and youth-driven innovation.

This initiative was a strategic move towards a more inclusive, future-oriented economy—one where the voices and talents of young people take the lead. It clearly aligns with the Department's mission to foster sustainable economic opportunities through empowerment, innovation, and partnerships.

To every young person who participated: your courage and spirit have inspired us all.

To the communities that hosted and supported each leg of the journey: your belief in the power of youth has ignited a fire that will burn long after this event.

And to the winners—congratulations for competing with heart, skill, and the true spirit of hope!

Skateboarding for Hope has not only transformed perceptions of skateboarding; it has ignited a movement—one that will continue fostering confidence, character, and careers in sports in the Northern Cape.



Moments from Our Youth Day Celebration

Honouring the Past, Empowering the Future

As Youth Month draws to a close, our department came together in a vibrant and meaningful celebration to honour the spirit, resilience, and potential of the young people within our institution. The Youth Day Celebration, held today, was more than just an event—it was a powerful platform for unity, reflection, and purpose.

The celebration brought together staff members aged 18 to 35, alongside key stakeholders, for a day filled with inspiration and candid conversations. The atmosphere was electric, filled with hope and determination, as the youth took centre stage to speak openly about the challenges they face and the future they envision.

Event Highlights:

A Journey Through History

One of the standout moments came from a guest speaker who shared an insightful narrative on the origins of Youth Day. His reflection provided attendees with a deeper understanding of the historic 1976 Soweto Uprising and reminded us why this day holds such significance in our national calendar.

Financial Wisdom from Old Mutual

Old Mutual offered valuable guidance on financial management—an essential skill in today's economic climate. Their talk emphasized the importance of budgeting, saving, and investing, empowering the youth with tools to build a secure financial future.

NYDA's Empowerment Drive

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) presented exciting youth empowerment initiatives. From business funding opportunities to entrepreneurial support, their message was clear: the future belongs to those who take action.

Throughout the day, heartfelt stories, informative presentations, and lively discussions created a space where young professionals felt seen, heard, and inspired. It was a celebration of potential—reminding us that investing in our youth today is an investment in a brighter tomorrow.

As we close Youth Month, let us carry forward the energy and lessons from this celebration. Let us continue to support, uplift, and equip our young people with the resources they need to thrive.

Here's to shaping futures, unlocking potential, and walking the journey of growth—together.



Backyard Farming: Cultivating Hope, One Seed at a Time

In a spirited gathering, The Sisterhood Corner NPC recently hosted a vibrant backyard farming workshop, reminding us that growing food isn't just a survival skill—it's a revolutionary act of reclaiming dignity, sustainability, and community care.

Whether it's herbs on a windowsill or a full veggie patch, yard farming shows us how our backyards can become fields of abundance.

The workshop brought together participants, stakeholders, and the Department of Social Development and SEFDA, all united by a passion for building local food security and resilience.



We learned practical ways to transform small spaces into productive gardens. Guest speakers emphasized that farming isn't just about food—it's about self-reliance and reconnecting with the earth beneath our feet. A live yard tour showcased everything from beekeeping tips to plant displays, proving that incredible potential exists in everyday spaces.

The workshop took place at Newton street, Greenside, welcoming community space, where participants gathered recently for a day filled with knowledge-sharing, hands-on learning, and inspiration.

Because backyard farming is more than growing food; it's about empowerment. The Department of Social Development shared how farming connects to their efforts to support soup kitchens and skilling women in agriculture, linking them to opportunities in agro-processing. SEFDA provided clarity on accessing funding and meeting compliance requirements, sparking hope for many attendees who dream of turning their ideas into thriving projects.

By the end of the day, seeds had been planted—both in the soil and in hearts. Together, we were reminded that our backyards can become more than food gardens; they can transform into spaces of learning, empowerment, and community care.

Because when we plant together, we rise together.



WELCOME AND BIDDING FAREWELL

The Department would like to warmly welcome Ms Marina Pelsler who started on the 1st April as inspector at Consumer Protection Authority to our esteemed Department of Economic Development and Tourism team.

We believe that you will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our department, and we look forward to your innovative ideas and perspectives that they will bring to the table.

Once again, welcome to the team! We are thrilled to have you with us and look forward to a successful and rewarding journey together.

BIDDING FAREWELL

The Department wishes to formally bid farewell to Advocate A.W. Pieterse-Hendricks from the Consumer unit. She has been a valued member of our team, demonstrating professionalism, dedication, and excellence throughout her time with us. While her departure leaves a gap, we are grateful for her collaborative efforts and hard work. We extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for future endeavours.



economic development & tourism

Department:
Economic Development & Tourism
Northern Cape Province
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department of Economic Development and Tourism
Corner of Knight & Stead Street
13th Floor, Metlife Towers Building
Kimberley
8301

Tel: 053- 839 4000

Fax: 053- 831 3668

Editor: Thandi Modibela

Editorial Team: Kehilwe Motabogi, Puseletso Phofoolo,
Eugene Mphatsoane, Sindi Kubeka and Nosi Seagaetsho

Photography: Kehilwe Motabogi, Puseletso Phofoolo,
Eugene Mphatsoane, Sindi Kubeka and Nosi Seagaetsho

Graphics Designer: Vernon van Nel

Intranet: <http://econ.ncpg.gov.za:443>

Website: <http://www.northern-cape.gov.za/dedat>

