



Commission for Gender Equality
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

Media Release

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To: Editors, Producers and Reporters

Commission for Gender Equality's Message of Support to newly appointed Acting Chief Justice, Sisi Khampepe

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) is pleased to convey a message of support to Justice Sisi Khampepe, who has been appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa as Acting Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, with effect from 1st May 2021. Her appointment comes in the wake of current Chief Justice, Mogoeng Mogoeng, going on an extended six months leave.

While acknowledging that Justice Khampepe will be serving as Acting Chief Justice for the duration of the absence of current Chief Justice, Mogoeng Mogoeng, it is nonetheless an historic moment in the history of the country's highest court, which has never been led by a female Chief Justice, whether in temporary or permanent capacity.

The CGE also wishes to acknowledge and appreciate the trust placed on Acting Chief Justice Sisi Khampepe by the country's political leadership under President Cyril Ramaphosa. Such trust serves as "a major indicator of progress towards a more gender sensitive judicial system that not only embraces, but is also ready to promote, gender equality and women's empowerment within its ranks", said CGE Chairperson, Ms. Mathebula.

The CGE has, for the past decade, sought to focus attention on gender transformation in the judiciary. In 2016, the Commission compiled and



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released an investigative report raising some of the challenges related to the lack of gender transformation within the Judiciary.

The Commission Chairperson, Ms. Tamara Mathebula, wishes to convey on behalf of the CGE a message of support and well wishes to Acting Chief Justice Sisi Khampepe, while also noting the enormous burden of responsibility and trust placed on her to lead the country's highest court for the next six months.

ENDS,

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The Commission for Gender Equality was established in terms of Section 181 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in order to promote respect for gender equality and the protection, development and attainment of gender equality.

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