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# NEWSFLASH

**STAY  
COVID-19  
SAFE**

An Internal Newsletter For The CGE Community

01 JULY 2021

FIRST EDITION



## Withdrawal of rape cases in EC

The Eastern Cape CGE office has noted with concern the withdrawal of gender-based violence cases by complainants in Lusikisiki. About three rape complaints that were lodged with the Commission, were cancelled by women at the police station. Hlababomvu police say the complainants cited various reasons for their withdrawal of cases, with one of them stating she had relocated to Port Elizabeth and was no longer interested to proceed with the matter.

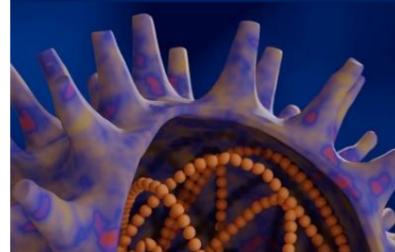
Another woman (24) said she withdrew her case as she was now married and wanted to continue with her new life. Yet another case was closed because there were no witnesses and police had not collected DNA samples. The victim - who is mentally ill - could not stand cross examination.



CGE's Eastern Cape Provincial Manager Mr. Nceba Mrwebo said the office is concerned as the area is one of the GBV hotspots in the province. "There is not much we can do on the withdrawal of cases by complainants, but much more can be done around the DNA challenges and Commissioners have raised this matter with the Eastern Cape Premier" Mrwebo said.

## COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT

SA's third wave of Covid-19 is fuelled by the DELTA variant, which is 97% more transmissible compared to the first variant identified last year.



## Message From The CEO



Welcome to the inaugural edition of our internal newsletter of the Commission for Gender Equality. This newsletter will be an invaluable tool for the CGE community to stay connected and informed about the business of the organisation. It is apt to start by reminding you that the Covid-19 pandemic has evolved and it remains our responsibility to exercise precautions to stay safe and protect our families, colleagues and those around us. As a considerate organisation, we still

encourage you to continue working from home and the office on an alternating basis as per agreements with managers, and to keep the numbers of people in the office at a minimum, in line with my last communication after the country was moved to alert level 4 of the lockdown. Understandably, there is a great sense of unease everywhere due to the pandemic.

Nonetheless, the CGE has shown great resilience, by achieving 96% of targets set in the previous year.

This demonstrates your sterling efforts and commitment. Continue to demonstrate grace under pressure because this is the time we can be a true force for the good of our institution and country. This is the mindset we must nurture. Each and everyone of us bears the responsibility to safeguard the integrity and good standing of our institution, and creating an organisation that is a role model in the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment. Let us strive for innovative approaches to delivering excellence, and continue our passion to keep our vision, mission, values and goals in focus.

## CGE inspects GBV centre



Commissioner Ntuli-Tloubatla paid an unannounced visit at the Emalahleni Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) in Mpumalanga last week, where she was taken on a site tour to assess the centre's conditions and facilities. TCCs provide safety to victims of rape and gender-based violence, but most of them are not adequately resourced to fulfil this purpose.

"More financial, physical and human resources are still needed" the Commissioner said following her site inspection. Thuthuzela Care Centres are one-stop facilities established as part of South Africa's anti-rape strategy, to reduce secondary victimisation of GBV victims and help them gain access to justice, medical care and counselling.

### IN THE NEXT EDITION:

Interview with Gauteng Provincial Manager Khutso Monyepao on the office's work in the province.

