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# NEWSFLASH

An Internal Newsletter For The CGE Community

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## CGE reacts to traditional chief suspension

The CGE Eastern Cape office has welcomed the suspension of a Chief by the MEC for cooperative governance and traditional affairs in the province, Xolile Nqatha.

Chief Bhekabambo Ntola of the Amantshangase traditional council was suspended for ten years without pay, after he was accused of humiliating two individuals who were accused of committing adultery, in a Flagstaff village in 2016.

The CGE provincial office expressed its concern to the House of Traditional Leaders and requested its intervention after Chief Ntola had forced a woman to engage in sexual intercourse with a man she was suspected of having an affair with. The then 38-year-old woman from Mkhumeni village was a married woman at the time.

She was accused of having an extra-marital affair and taken to a tribal court where Chief Ntola forcefully ordered her and the man she was accused with, to undress and engage in sexual activity as punishment. This happened in front of community members who took photos with their cellphones.

CGE provincial manager in the Eastern Cape, Nceba Mrwebo said although the office noted the sanction against the Chief, more should have been done.

“After this matter came to our attention, we wrote to the house of traditional leaders for their intervention. A police case was opened but no action was taken, we followed up with SAPS”. MEC Nqatha said he suspended Ntola after an ad-hoc committee recommended his immediate suspension as a traditional leader.



## Free State NGO reaches out to CGE on legal support



A Free State-based organisation that advocates for the rights and welfare of community members reached out to the CGE's Free State office and hosted Commissioner Busisiwe Deyi as a guest speaker in a social media conversation on CGE's legal support services and South Africa's gender equality laws.

Tholwana e Molemo, a Non-Profit Organisation in the Free State that implements skills development and projects that assist communities with special focus on Transgender and MSM health including HIV awareness, nutrition and food security, economic development and entrepreneurship. The dialogue centred on the work of the CGE in helping members of the public through submission of complaints, and implications of various legislations on the LGBTQIA+ Community.

“Our NGO has been receiving gender-based complaints from community members in the Free State and we wanted to understand what type of complaints we could submit to the CGE and the

support we can expect” said Nosana Sondiyazi, who was the dialogue's facilitator. “At the commission we have legal officers who understand how to write important documents like affidavits and other documents that must be presented in court. Community members need assistance because the language they speak is not the same language spoken in courts or legal circles, so legal people are necessary to help ordinary people with their complaints” Commissioner Deyi said, in response to a question about legal support for ordinary complainants.

“We work in rural communities and sometimes we come across cases of gender oppression in households and we try to understand how can the law be used to protect and help people” Sondiyazi said during the conversation.

“One of the things we do at the CGE is to have dialogues on different topics using media and conduct community outreach initiatives, because that can help a lot in breaking barriers” the Commissioner said.

## Providing gender development training to communities

The Gauteng office recently implemented a number of community workshops to provide training to community workers on gender and development and gender-mainstreaming. “We provide training to the attendees and in turn they also train community members in their respective communities, this approach helps a lot especially as we are trying to comply with Covid-19 regulations,” said Gauteng Education Officer, Koketso Sekhu.

The objective of the workshop that was held in the township of Katlehong in June was to allow every person to play a role in advocating better outcomes for women and men, through meaningful and bold action in creating inclusive communities. Gender issues are being taken to communities because that is where GBV & domestic violence issues occur. The office was also part of a webinar that discussed an exploration of men and boys' perspectives in achieving gender equality.