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A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

04 NOVEMBER 2021

EDITION 19

CGE's Election Observation Mission Accomplished



The Commission for Gender Equality completed a successful its observation mission of the country's local government elections on Monday, with a team of about 50 gender-diverse officials who visited voting stations across the country, ensuring that among areas included were rural villages, farming communities, informal settlements, as well as major urban areas and big cities in all the nine provinces.

The observer mission was to ensure that men and women, and boys and girls who were eligible to vote, were afforded opportunities to exercise this democratic right, free of gender discrimination or any other gender related impediments. The CGE has previously conducted election observation missions.

"The Commission wishes to laud the Electoral Commission of South Africa on fielding a sufficiently gender-diverse Team of election officials under the leadership of Presiding Officers in voting stations observed by the CGE Team throughout the country" said CGE's head of policy and research, Dr. Thabo Rapoo.

Rapoo said while the CGE was generally pleased with the absence of significant gender-related impediments during the voting process, it was concerned with the lower voter turnout that has become the major talking point of these elections. "Such lower voter turnouts in the past have tended to be to the detriment of women's representation among elected public representatives" he said.

How rife is gender-based violence in the Mpumalanga and what other challenges have you observed in the province?

Gender Based Violence cases which are high in Mpumalanga are Sexual offences and sexual assault, Assault GBH cases. We've observed that there is a delay in finalising the cases in courts due to DNA results. Also, courts are not functioning properly because of poor systems. Lack of resources within the Justice cluster is a serious challenge in the province.

Is there any initiatives/programmes you are working on with stakeholders in the province?

The MOU with the House of Traditional Leaders and Khoisan is a breakthrough for us to get to the areas which are under Tribal Councils and we are able to resolve cases together. We are also working with various formations such as Moral Regenerations, SACC, civil society, departments, and municipalities. Furthermore, we have created working relations with radio stations such as Ligwalagwala FM, Ikwekwezi and Barberton Community Radio Station.

Q&A with Moltah Mavuso Mpumalanga Provincial Manager



How did the lockdown affect your outreach plans and how did you cope?

Due to the lockdown regulations, we had to change the way we operate our programmes. Instead of face-to-face activities, we embarked on radio slots as interventions. This has affected our office in terms of dealing with complaints. Also, we could not reach out to Civil Society due to lack of resources from their side in conducting virtual meetings.

Do you have many people lodging complaints with the CGE or do you think more work still needs to be done to increase awareness?

Currently we do not have many people lodging complaints, we feel that more still needs to be done so that people may also be reminded that the CGE still exist.

Is there any LGBTI programmes you are working on?

Yes, we do have LGBTI programmes that we are working on, as we are approaching the 16 Days of Activism, we will be having activities during that period which are specifically directed to the group. We are also a member of the MP LGBTI Forum.

Social Development's forum to engage men in GBV fight

CGE spokesperson Javu Baloyi delivered a motivational talk to men during the Deeds Men's Forum Conference that was held at Valley Lodge & Spa in Magaliesburg on 21 October. The Conference was attended by male officials from Deeds Registration Trading Entity, under the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

"The purpose of the event was to highlight the physical, psychological and emotional factors that lead to negative or poor decision making for men who find themselves in difficult situations" Baloyi said of the event. In his address, he called for men to lead by example and protect women in the fight against gender-based violence, "We need to respect every female person around us irrespective of age. In the workplace and at home, men need to protect and love their partners and lead by example as public servants".




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

Webinar

LGBTQI+ EQUALITY

What it took for us to get here and what it will take to move forward!

11 November 2021
10:00 – 12:00
RSVP: Busisiwe@cge.org.za

Microsoft Teams

Busisiwe Deyi
HOST

Wendy Isaack
SPEAKER

Zethu Matebeni
SPEAKER



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