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NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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CGE holds hearings to assess gender transformation

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) conducted legal hearings on Employment Equity and the Review of transformation in the Public and Private Sector. The two-days hearing sessions were held in Mbombela, Mpumalanga on Monday and Tuesday earlier this week. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) appeared before a CGE panel comprising of Chairperson Tamara Mathebula, and Commissioners, Adv. Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale, Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla and Ohara Ngoma-Diseko, and Dr Dennis Matotoka and Lesetsa Teffo from the legal department. "The hearing with Cogta was in line with a complaint that was lodged with the CGE about some practices within the traditional leadership in Mpumalanga, and we are satisfied with the responses we received from Cogta," said Ntuli-Tloubatla.



Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko during the legal hearings help in Mpumalanga this week.

The Mpumalanga Office of the Premier, represented by its Director General and the Management Team, appeared before the commission on the second day, to answer on their compliance with transformation legislation and its policies. The commission for gender equality has raised concerns about the slow pace of gender transformation in the workplace, and inadequate promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly for women with disabilities. More hearings will be conducted with organisations from various sectors. "We are going to hold follow-up hearings with the TVET colleges in the higher education sector next week," said Dr Dennis Matotoka.



Reflecting on barriers to equality for the LGBTI+ community

The CGE webinar on LGBTI+ equality held today brought together speakers who reflected on the human rights journey of the LGBTI+ community in South Africa. Themed "What it took for us to get here and what it will take to move forward!", the discussions brought under the spotlight, legislative gaps that provide barriers to equality for individuals who are gay, lesbians, transgender, and queer.

In a debate that was facilitated by commissioner Busisiwe Deyi, speakers provided insight on solutions needed to achieve human rights for all, "A lot of LGBTI individuals who are refugees, particularly women who are lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer, do not have any protection within refugee or immigration laws" said Wendy Isaacks, a researcher in the LGBTI rights program at Human Rights Watch.

The webinar was linked to the CGE's call for public comments on LGBTI+ Equality, in which individuals and organisations are requested to submit suggestions or inputs on matters of LGBTI. The public comments can be submitted via an online or downloadable application form currently available on the CGE website (www.cge.org.za).



Heads of Chapter 9 institutions reflect on impact of covid-19 and corruption on human rights

Heads of institutions supporting democracy came together today in the inaugural FISD virtual conference that discussed the impact of Covid-19 and corruption on human rights. The one-day conference was addressed by former Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng and President of the International Ombudsman Institute, Chris Field. Heads of chapter 9

10 and 13 institutions who participated in the conference include CGE chairperson Tamara Mathebula, IEC chairperson Glen Mashinini, Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane, and SAHRC chairperson Bongani Majola. In her opening remarks for second session of the conference, Mathebula said the work done by South Africa to protect people from Covid-19

Should not be reversed or undone, "Now is the time for solutions and the need to shine the light on protection of human rights during the covid-19 pandemic" she said. IEC chairperson Glen Mashinini spoke about the importance of accountability in public institutions, while Auditor General Tsakani Maluleke addressed the impact of corruption and lack of financial

accountability in public institutions. The conference's closing remarks were delivered by Adv Busisiwe Mkhwebane in her capacity as chairperson of the Forum of Institutions Supporting Democracy (FISD).

