



COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

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NW Roundtable Tackles GBV and Women Empowerment

The fight against Gender-Based Violence and gender inequality needs different role players to come together. This was the case on 30 November when the Commission for Gender Equality participated in a round-table discussion attended by Commissioners Nomasonto Mazibuko, Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale and CGE North-West Provincial Manager Joyce Khutsoane.

Hosted by the Temo Foundation, the roundtable focused on the state of gender equality at local government level, disability, barriers to women's economic empowerment, and solutions thereof. Commissioner Sepanya-Mogale spoke on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), socio-economic and political context and the involvement of men in gender equality matters.

“Statistics show that an average of 52 000 women report rapes in a year, leaving one to imagine the number of cases that go unreported as a result of the system failing the victims, and families suppressing victims not to report crimes”, Commissioner Sepanya-Mogale said before calling on all role players to act in unison, and augmenting each other's efforts in the fight against gender inequality, “We need families, religious organisations, corporations and social groups to join hands” she concluded. The roundtable – which took place at Sun City – also discussed solutions to the wage gaps between men and women of the same occupational jobs in the workplace.



Commissioner Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale speaking at the GE-21 Roundtable Discussion at Sun City, North West.



How CGE Monitors the Courts

The Commission for Gender Equality is on a mission to monitor courts in the Eastern Cape, to understand how GBV and sexual offence cases are handled. The process to monitor court cases starts with CGE legal officers issuing submissions for monitoring of cases that are of public interest or as a result of a complaint received by the organisation. “Once the approval is granted for case monitoring, the legal officer may note any matters that are peculiar, such as secondary victimisation” Eastern Cape Provincial Manager Nceba Mrwebo explained. The CGE Eastern Cape office has monitored the cases involving Nigerian pastor Tim Omotoso at the Port Elizabeth High Court, and the case of the murder of Fort Hare student Nosiselo Mtebeni at the East London High Court, among others. The office has also monitored cases of early child forced marriages, which is common in the province.

CGE Police Monitoring Goes to Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape

The Commission for Gender Equality's countrywide campaign to pay oversight visits to police stations continued this week, with Commissioner Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla and Chairperson Tamara Mathebula conducting monitoring visits to stations in the Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape provinces respectively. The Mpumalanga monitoring took place at police stations in the small towns of Belfast, Bethal, Evander and Machadodorp, while the Eastern Cape visits were carried out in Lusikisiki and Port St Johns.

In Mpumalanga, Commissioner Ntuli-Tloubatla also paid an unannounced visit to a Thuthuzela Care Centre in Evander, “If we work together, we can do more to eradicate the scourge of Gender-Based Violence in the country” she said. In the Eastern Cape, the Lusikisiki reported a shortage of police personnel to respond to the high number of GBV, sexual crimes and general crimes in the community. Lusikisiki is one the GBV hotspots in the province and the station has 114 members who serve a population of 280 000 living in several rural villages.

“There is also a lack of resources such as cars as most vehicles are broken, and the vehicles being provided are not suitable for rural roads as most roads are inaccessible” the Chairperson said. During her visit, the Chairperson was informed about the case of a 15-year-old who was allegedly raped by her biological father, “The Brigadier requested CGE intervention as the mother of the child wants the case to be dropped.



Commissioner Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla in the SAPS Victim Empowerment Room with Warrant Maketha.

The police station has a GBV forum, led by Mr. Mathandabuzo and the forum has been very instrumental in raising awareness on GBV”, said Eastern Cape Provincial Manager, Mr. Nceba Mrwebo.



Chairperson Tamara Mathebula (centre) with officers at the Lusikisiki police station this week.

