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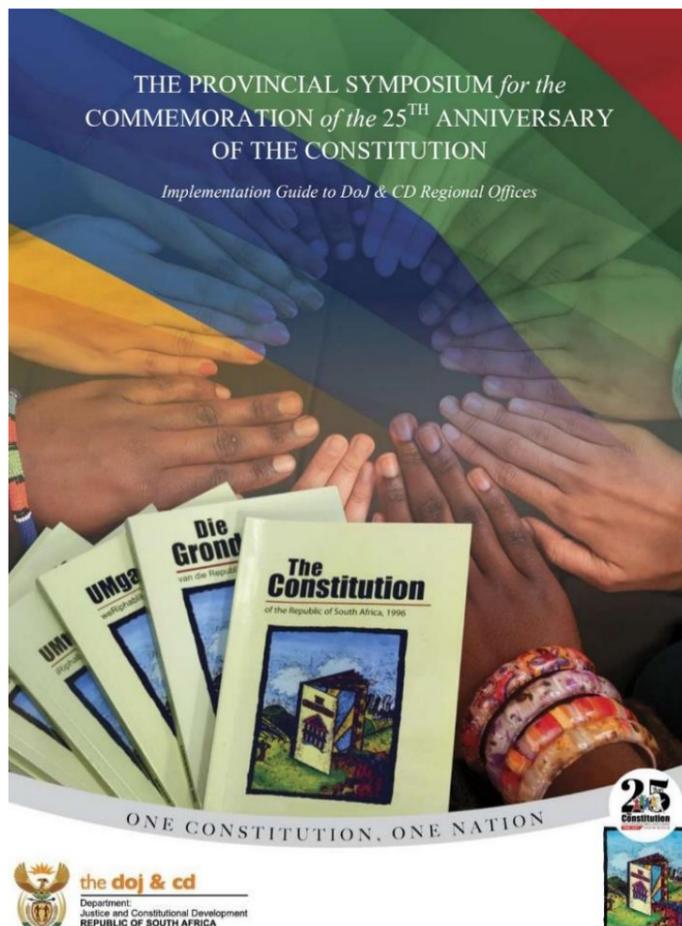


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A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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Looking at 25 years of the Constitution and gender equality

“The constitution provides for the founding values of Human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedom, non-racialism, non-sexism, supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of Law” these were the words of Chairperson for the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), Ms. Tamara Mathebula, who delivered the keynote address at the Eastern Cape provincial symposium on Monday.

“The Constitution is balanced and ensures that there are no discrimination and prejudices based on who you are” she said. CGE Eastern Cape Manager Nceba Mrwebo said progress has been made in attaining gender equality and the equal enjoyment of the rights as stipulated in the Constitution.

The series of symposia are intended to be provincial flagship events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the South African Constitution, and are hosted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. Mathebula added that everyone must be protected under the Constitution’s fundamental values.

“The question that we should continue to ask ourselves is - to what extent has legislation assisted the country to create an enabling environment for women and eradicating all forms of oppression?” he said as he provided words of support during the symposium. “The CGE acknowledges strides made by government; however, what we have found peculiar is the lack of enforcement by those who are supposed to implement and enforce these legislations as well as the lack of accountability,” he concluded.



Encouraging men to be agents of change

As the fight against gender-based violence intensifies, the Department of Home Affairs hosted a Men’s Forum on Gender Equality Conference. The forum’s programme of action has been inspired by the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The NSP implores government departments to implement gender focused policies and initiatives within the purview of their Constitutional and Legislative mandates. Spokesperson for the Commission for Gender Equality, Mr Javu Baloyi delivered a motivational talk focused on gender equality in South Africa. “The upbringing and socialisation of a boy child has a

notion of entitlement in our country. Society expects men to be strong, and to not display their vulnerabilities. This language belongs in the past and creates hostility because when men are confronted by difficult situations, they are unable to deal with them, but instead often resort to aggression or violence. It is time to unlearn this toxic behaviour” Baloyi said, before calling on men in the gathering to be agents of change in their communities, workplaces and society at large. The forum was hosted on Tuesday at the Manhattan Hotel in Pretoria.

Amongst the communities and areas visited was Budulong High School, which records high rates of school dropouts by young females as a result learner pregnancy. The school is also affected by bullying amongst learners, and learners towards teachers. The session at Budulong addressed these issues in addition to raising awareness surrounding trafficking of persons.

The outreach programme was also taken to Seweding, Kagong and Khatu throughout the week. Community members were educated and informed about the mandate and services of the CGE and were advised on contributing factors to human trafficking.

According to police statistics, 2 132 cases were reported to the SAPS from 2015 to 2017. If you need information or help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 0800 222 777.

CGE Spokesperson Javu Baloyi

Taking Human Trafficking awareness to communities in the Northern Cape

Between 21 and 25 February, the Northern Cape office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), in partnership with some of its various stakeholders, including the Department of Social Development, Department of Justice, Department of Basic

Education, Department of Transport Safety and Liaison, National Prosecuting Authorities, Department of Correctional Services, the South African Social Security Agency Security Agency and the Hawks hosted a series of human trafficking awareness

awareness outreach programmes. The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons from the United States of America wrote a Trafficking in Persons report about South Africa being a Tier 2 Watch List country. The CGE undertakes these outreach programmes as part of interventions to educate the public on the dangers and effects of human trafficking, and signs of potential trafficking in person perpetrators.

