



More Help Needed For Women And Children In Shelters

More support is needed to assist women and children who have been displaced following heavy rains in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and North-West provinces. Hundreds of families affected by floods in KwaZulu Natal are in need of counselling amongst many other relief efforts, but their current temporary living conditions do not allow for proper psychological assistance due to limitations of private space. During the Commission for Gender Equality's visit to the affected areas around Ethekwini, families and local organisations explained their hardships and difficulties to the Commission.

"Government has made some interventions in the form of counselling but our view is that more still needs to be done to uplift affected people, for example, children who are in temporary accommodation facilities need to be taken care of in a better way," said Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko following the CGE's visit to three shelters in KZN, where displaced families have been relocated.

"There is also a need for spiritual leaders to play a role in addition to the counselling efforts that government has availed, but we are concerned that we have not seen a spiritual leader in areas we visited, we are of the belief that spiritual upliftment is important in situations like this," she said. Eastern Cape provinces that also experienced floods as a



result of heavy rains and storms. The Commission visited affected areas in parts of Ethekwini, Ugu district as well as Inanda. CGE officials also visited parts of the North-West and Eastern Cape.

CGE Lauds Support From Mpumalanga Traditional House of Traditional & Khoisan Leaders

Working with traditional leaders in the Mpumalanga province over the past years has assisted the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in spreading its gender equality campaigns to rural communities and tribal authorities in different regions. This working partnership has helped the Commission understand challenges faced by rural women and also opened channels of engagement between the Commission and traditional leaders in the form of chiefs, royal houses and community leaders.

CGE's Mpumalanga Provincial Manager Moltah Mavuso said the Commission intends to sustain the relationship as it is an important channel through which it has enhanced grassroots engagement on gender related issues, "We want to continue to educate and empower our communities with knowledge especially when it comes to human rights and gender equality. There are many challenges caused by social ills, which are affecting our communities and if we work in silos we will not win this battle, hence a multi-disciplinary approach is needed" she said.

The house of traditional leaders prides itself in protecting and promoting African cultural and traditional knowledge systems and practices within communities led by tribal authorities. Ms. Mavuso said the Queens and Queen mothers under the traditional leaders council play an important role in reaching out to the public. "We are grateful for the role of Amakhosikati (the Queens) in reaching out to their communities, indeed there is progress in that regard, and we can also appreciate your full support to their needs so that they can continue sustaining themselves and making a difference in those communities" she said.

The Commission for Gender Equality is on a mission to advance, promote and protect gender equality in South Africa. The organisation does this work through research projects, public education, policy development, legislative submissions and effective monitoring and litigation. The Commission derives its mandate from Section 187(1) of the Constitution.

Opening Access To Justice In Local Communities



Many victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) do not get justice due to the difficulties in accessing legal support and navigating the intimidating and complex criminal justice system. The CGE's Western Cape office is today taking part in an imbizo driven by the National Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to fight GBV. The community gathering

was held at the Delft civic centre in Cape Town. The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr John Jeffrey addressed the event. The CGE's Western Cape office consistently embarks on community engagement programmes to educate people about the dangers of human trafficking, GBV, gender inequality and other gender related social ills.

