



## Parliament Visits CGE Offices



Members of the Portfolio Committee and CGE Commissioners and staff following a working session at the CGE North-West office in Mahikeng.

Chairperson of Parliament’s Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and People with Disabilities, Ms Nonhlanhla Ndaba, said the committee’s visit has given them an opportunity to learn more about the programmes implemented by the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE).

The Committee is on a three-day oversight tour to assess work done by the Commission and other public service institutions that report to it. Their engagement with the CGE started with a working session at the CGE’s North-West office on Tuesday and will continue with more work sessions today and Friday.

“We have been able to see the North-West office and learn more about the CGE’s provincial team and its work,” Ndaba said. CGE Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko said the committee’s visit was

an important sign of support for the Commission, “We are delighted to meet with the Committee in a physical meeting discussing issues in detail, because most of our recent meetings were virtual due to the pandemic,” Mazibuko said.

“Gender-Based Violence and Femicide are on the increase in all provinces and it’s important that the work of the Commission reaches communities where a lot of people are suffering gender-related injustices,” said Ms Ndaba. The Committee is scheduled to visit the police stations in Soshanguve and Temba, and a GBV shelter.

Amongst other things, the Committee discussed gender-related complaints received by the CGE from members of the public, and the level of co-operation from the South African Police Service (SAPS).

## Young Women Getting To Know Gender Commission



A group of five young women working on a project to track and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals, paid a visit to the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) offices in Johannesburg. Tamara Moyo, Pertunia Molapisi, Thembelihle Thabethe, Minenhle Mazibuko and Lebohlang Mazibuko are on a three-months work readiness programme. The focus of their project is on SDG 5 and 16, which deal gender equality and peace, justice and strong institutions. Established in 1994, Afrika Tikkun is a leading non-profit organisation recognised

for its commitment to holistically developing the lives of young community members. “We wanted to visit the CGE to understand its work and mandate as we are also starting to do some work in gender equality.

The young women say they hope to inspire women to speak out against Gender-Based Violence, and aspire to educate boys, upskill women in jobs, and to start a foundation in honour of Thembelihle’s child, Hlelolenkosi, one of the ladies, who lost her child to gender-based violence.

## Government’s Fight Against GBV And Femicide Falling Short in ERAP



On 18 September 2019, amidst heightened public concerns and widespread media reporting of escalating incidents of violence against women in the country, and mounting pressure from civil society and women’s organisations for urgent action, President Cyril Ramaphosa unveiled an Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) to fast-track a programme of action to address Gender-Based Violence and femicide in the country.

The ERAP initiative was rolled out from October 2019 to March 2020. On completion of the six months of implementation, the Interim Steering Committee on GBVF compiled and released a progress report labelled “Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Consolidated ERAP report – Update”, outlining progress and

achievements made by the various implementing agencies during those six months. The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) to conduct its independent review and assessment of the implementation of the ERAP. The aim of the review was to assess the extent of progress in the implementation of ERAP interventions and targets. The CGE assessment revealed that out of this total of 80 targets, only 17 targets (or 21.25%) were fully achieved, and 12 targets (or 15.0%) were partially achieved. Most of the targets (51 or 63.75%) were not achieved. Our review has identified several key operational challenges that we believe served to undermine the implementation of the ERAP initiative, and ultimately led to many important targets not being achieved.