



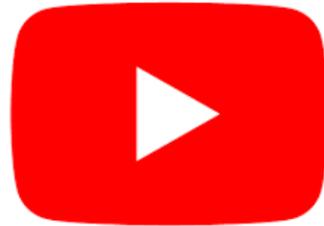
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NEWSFLASH

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A review of the 2021/2022 Performance in the Free State Office



On 8 June, the Free State office hosted a stakeholder engagement with key stakeholders within the Free State province to reflect on the work done by the Commission for Gender Equality and its stakeholders during the 2021/2022 financial year. Effective management of stakeholder relations is a key focus on implementing the CGE's mandate as outlined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and functions as outlined in Section 11 of the CGE Act of 1996. It is therefore imperative that the CGE works closely with like-minded organisations in promoting gender equality in the country, it is also equally important to work with organisations that do not share similar

interests with the aim of positively influencing them towards gender transformation. The Provincial Manager, Samantha Britz stated that maintaining stakeholder relations has a dual purpose, which is to facilitate effective collaboration and knowledge sharing, such as through reports that the Commission produces, but it also creates a platform to identify and discuss critical gender issues that need to be spearheaded to ensure policy development. In line with the monitoring role of the CGE, The Director Special Programmes of the Office of the Premier, Zine Mogorosi presented

on their coordination role on tracking progress for implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP-GBVF) by government departments in the Free State Province. She indicated that their office has not efficiently coordinated the provincial progress as a result there is no measure on how far the province has progressed. "This challenge creates an opportunity to collaborate with the Office of the Premier to develop measures in place to monitor progress" said Boitumelo Zwane, Education Officer.

The Limpopo Office takes to Ga-Madiba in Mokopane



On 9 June, the Limpopo Office hosted an Outreach programme in Ga-Madiba in Mokopane. The Outreach and Public Education was aimed at educating community members on their fundamental human rights, the mandate of the CGE and how we are available to assist in matters relating to the violation of gender rights, and on the issue of maintenance. "It is imperative that we continue to educate our community members on issues of gender equality.

This is not an easy task as some gender inequality norms have long been imbedded in our societies, and issues of gender roles, particularly in the homes require a change in mindset of individual" said Limpopo Education Officer, Nkhensani Hlekani. Outreach and Public Education Programmes are central to the work of the CGE as we strive to achieve a society that is indeed free of all gender inequality.

Addressing the Youth of North-West



On 14 June, The North-West Office attended the launch of the Internal Youth Forum Structure at Potchefstroom Agricultural College. The Forum was launched by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and it was combined with celebrating Youth Day ahead of the National Day, which is 16 June, where different stakeholders addressed the youth on issues affecting them. Amongst the stakeholders were Assupol Financial Advisor, and the Department of Social Development. The Department of Social Development spoke to

issues of mental health and substance abuse while the CGE was invited to speak on gender-based violence (GBV). "GBV is rooted in patriarchal beliefs, some traditional and cultural norms, as well as power imbalances within the home, workplace, and educational institutions. Women and girls in South Africa experience high levels of violence, which is perpetuated in different forms, occurring in different settings," said Education Officer, Tsholofelo Sabole.

A Review of the 2021/2022 Quarter 4 Crime Stats

The latest crime statistic revealed that crime continues to be a problem that contributes to the plight of all South Africans, but women and children in particular. In an opinion piece penned by the Chairperson of the Commission, Tamara Mathebula, together with some of the Research team, Thubelihle Zitha, Lindelwe Motha, Thabani Mdlongwa and Mpelo Malebye, the contact crimes figures are concerning for the CGE which continues to advocate for, and track processes geared towards the

formation of a National Council for Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NCGBVF) as well as the implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP). "Contact crime refers to crimes in which the victims themselves are the targets of violence or instances where the victims are in the vicinity of property that criminals target and are subjected to the use of or threats of violence by perpetrators." "Out of the 6 083 people killed in the country, 898 of them were women and 306 were children under the age

of 17 years," said Cele."

The CGE is particularly concerned with the statistics pertaining to contact crimes and sexual offences. Both the contact crimes and sexual offences categories indicate that there has been a double-digit percentage increases on those crimes (excluding contact sexual offences) by no less than 13%.