



Importance of Gender Budgeting in Municipalities



Commissioner of the Commission for Gender Equality, Nomasonto Mazibuko addressing the KwaZulu-Natal Multiparty Women's Caucus on Wednesday

Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko addressed the KwaZulu-Natal Multiparty Women's Caucus Panel (MWCP) Discussion on Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning, which was held in Ilember District under the Theme "A budget that works for Everyone". The discussion took place on Wednesday. The MPWC consists of female Members of the Legislature from all political parties. One of the objectives of the Caucus is to empower Members to address gender inequality in their own communities. Mazibuko spoke on the need to assess South Africa's Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing

Framework (GRPBMEA). "As the CGE we have an oversight responsibility to assess if public funds are used accordingly to achieve transformation and gender equality. We are also available to offer knowledge resources and conduct workshops to correct this," Mazibuko said. "Between 2018 and 2020, the CGE has been engaging with Municipalities to evaluate their progress with regards to gender responsiveness in their integrated development planning" she added. The discussion was conducted through various portfolio committees since Tuesday.

Concerns over South Africa's Persistent Economic Gender Gap



The following Acts in South Africa, provide key elements that are designed to protect the rights of women, promote gender equality and facilitate women's empowerment:

The Constitution of South Africa (1996), the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (2000), the Employment Equity Act (1998), the Electoral Act (1998), the Municipal Systems Act (2000), and the Communal Land Rights Act (2004), among others. At strategic policy level, the country's National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality (2000) established a clear vision and framework to guide the processes of developing laws, policies, procedures and practices that would ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men in all spheres, levels and structures of government, the workplace, the community and the family. Furthermore, Chapter 5 of the revised 2013 Women's Empowerment and Equality Bill aims to strengthen the enforcement of compliance by both government and the private sector in matters of gender mainstreaming and equality.

However, despite the country's excellent policy and programme intervention framework that supports women's economic empowerment, South Africa continues to experience gender gaps with respect to achieving gender equity in economic transformation. Data produced by Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) indicate a steady increase in women's share in the working-age population over the last 10 years.



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