



NEWSFLASH



Commission for Gender Equality

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

15 JULY 2022

EDITION 47

@CGE_ZA

CGE Launches Report On SAPS' GBV Readiness



CGE Commissioners and representatives from the SAPS Gauteng division and national office during the launch of the CGE's Report on SAPS Police Stations. The launch took place at the Constitutional Hill on 12 July 2022.



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) successfully launched the "Call To Action" report on Tuesday at the Constitutional Hill. The report was a culmination of the Commission's six months of monitoring and oversight visits to various police stations in South Africa's nine provinces last year.

During these visits, the Commission assessed the readiness of police stations to deal with gender-based violence (GBV) cases and assist victims of GBV, domestic violence and sexual offences. "We are aware that the South African Police Service has a national strategy to fight gender-based violence, but we needed to visit police stations in communities because in this country we have very good plans at national level, but the picture and the experience of people is quite different at community level" said CGE's acting chairperson, Dr. Nthabiseng Moleko during her report presentation address.

Amongst other problems that need to be addressed urgently, the Commission found that there are police stations that have an inadequate number of vehicles to respond to the demands of their immediate communities in the fight against GBV and general crime. The Commission also found that some police stations had a higher ratio of police officers against the number of people in their communities, while some police stations did not have officers who

were trained to handle GBV cases. Dignitaries who attended the launch include Major General Mathonsi from the office of National Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner in Gauteng, Major General Mbele. "The findings of the report we are launching are critical and need to be taken seriously. The report should not cause a conflict between the Commission and SAPS" said CGE Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko. "We initiated the process of visiting SAPS stations and Thuthuzela Care Centres to assess the level of compliance in terms of providing victim-friendly services for victims and survivors of GBV" added Dr. Moleko.

The Commission collected data through monitoring tools and salient observations at the 66 police stations and Thuthuzela Care Centres that were visited in different provinces. "We welcome the findings of the Commission and look forward to working together with them. As SAPS we always strive to achieve higher performance for our communities and it is for that reason that all our police trainees are given basic GBV training during their induction," said Major General Mathonsi. The launch event was also attended by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Statistics South Africa, Department of Social Development and the Gauteng Department of Community Safety.



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) is an independent statutory body established in terms of Section 181 of the Constitution of South Africa. The mandate of the CGE is provided for in Section 187 of the Constitution and in the CGE Act of 1996.

As mandated by section 187 (1) of the constitution "the Commission for Gender Equality must promote respect for gender equality". The CGE therefore prioritizes GBV as a critical area of strategic intervention, especially because it violates predominantly the rights of women and limits their participation in the socio-economic development of the country. Section 187 (2) grants the CGE "the power, as regulated by national legislation, necessary to perform its functions, including the power to monitor, investigate, research, educate, lobby, advise and report on issues concerning gender equality.

The gender agenda took a radical turn in 2018 when the women of South Africa in their diversity got together and protested for the President to make a shift in dealing with GBV issues. That led to the first ever Presidential summit that resulted in the Presidential Summit Declaration. GBV has since been pronounced as a twin pandemic to COVID-19. The CGE has been part of these processes providing technical support and as well as observing the processes and proceedings in different spheres.

Cohort Crime Statistics Surveys undertaken by the SAPS Quarterly, demonstrated the escalated GBV numbers in 2020 at the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, that prompted the CGE in line with its mandate to investigate the situation and establish the factors that led to the spike of gender-based violence, especially with the key Department that is positioned as the entrance point of the Criminal Justice System (SAPS). – Statement from the Commission for Gender Equality on the SAPS Report.