



CGE Calls For Equal Gender Pay In South African Sport



South Africa's women's national football team "Banyana Banyana" won the women's African Cup of Nations in Morocco for the first time after five attempts in the past twenty years. (Pic: CAF)

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) repeated the call it has made in previous years for equal gender pay in South African sport and athletics. Over the years, the Commission has made several engagements with the South African Football Association (SAFA) to discuss gender equality between the association's men and women's national teams.

The CGE released a public statement last week in the wake of the senior women's football team (Banyana Banyana) reaching the finals of the Women's African Cup of Nations (WAFCON) in Morocco. The Commission was reacting to SAFA's commitment to pay winning bonuses to the players and technical team. The association had stated it would pay the players R55,000 each for reaching the final, and over R400,00 each if they won the tournament. The team won the tournament over the weekend.

"The Commission believes this amount is unfair for a group of hard-working female athletes who have performed excellently to fly the South African flag high at this tournament. The CGE has in the past held discussions with the South African Football Association regarding the unequal pay structures between men and women's teams, and we will continue to engage different sport associations and federations on the matter" the CGE said.

Following this call by the Commission, there has been similar calls from Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture and President Cyril Ramaphosa. The Commission believes that equal gender pay can be achieved if the business sector can make investments in women's sport through development funds and sponsorships.

"The CGE is aware that women's football is not attracting as many sponsorships as the men's, and we view that as another form of systemic gender inequality in our society. We are of the view that it is the duty of the office bearers at SAFA to source more funds to compensate the women's team for their sterling work" said CGE Chairperson, Ms. Tamara Mathebula.

"The country's women football structure is not as solid as the men's, which leads to most active female players falling into abject poverty while their male counterparts continue to earn stable salaries at their respective clubs. The CGE is calling on SAFA to re-think the bonus structure for Banyana Banyana and bring it on par with remuneration structures for the men's team" Mathebula added.

The Commission will continue to engage with SAFA leadership to address this thorny issue of pay gap between the national teams, and gender transformation within the South African football.

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CGE To Commemorate Its 25th Anniversary During Women's Month

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) will be commemorating its 25th anniversary at the Constitutional Hill on 26 August 2022, and will use the occasion to reflect on the emancipation of women from gender oppression and the status of gender equality, women empowerment, and protection of minority groups in South Africa.

As gender inequality continues to be a point of both reflection and concern in South Africa today, the CGE seeks to utilise its Constitutional mandate to help the country move towards a society free of gender oppression. The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) was established in 1996, promulgated under Section 181 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa as well as the Commission for Gender Equality Act no 39 of 1996, (as amended). The Constitution provides a framework for the creation of a new, free, and equal society, in the form of the Bill of Rights.

For the past twenty-five years, the CGE has been making significant progress in demolishing the huge and obstinate mountain of gender inequality and oppression in South Africa. While the mountain has not yet been removed, the progress made is praiseworthy, hence the commemoration of the 25th anniversary.

The CGE's contribution towards the elimination of gender inequality and oppression is evident in its legislative submissions, several successful court cases, successful monitoring of state agencies, and provision of assistance to complainants from all walks of life through investigative work. As CGE's accomplishments are a result of collaboration with multiple stakeholders, the anniversary seeks to thank them and draw attention to their contribution towards the alleviation of the plight of gender violence, discrimination, harassment, and exploitation in South Africa.