



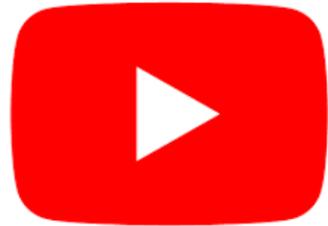
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NEWSFLASH

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Celebrating and Honouring Deaf Women in KZN



Women who attended the event where deaf women were celebrated in Durban on Thursday.



The Commission for Gender Equality's KwaZulu Natal office partnered with the province's Deaf Association to honour and celebrate deaf women at an event held in Durban on Thursday, 11 August. KwaZulu Natal Deaf Association (KZND) looks after the interests and rights of people with hearing impairments and the general deaf community.

The association also networks to create economic opportunities to empower deaf women. The association is an NGO and has been in operation for over sixty years. "Our main focus is empowering and capacitating deaf people to be able to live and participate in society, we do this through life skills training programmes amongst other things" said Dale, Director of the association. The CGE and KZND belong to the provincial multi-stakeholder forum where like-minded organisations share solutions through partnerships and support programmes.

During her address, CGE's KwaZulu Natal Provincial Manager, Zanele Ncwane, said women with disabilities face more exclusion in the society they live in, "We still have a lot of police stations that cannot assist a deaf person who needs to report a case simply because they do not have a sign language interpreter, it is concerning that government departments do not have sign language interpreters at their helpdesks, which is a formal language in South Africa" Ncwane said, "As the Commission, we need to look into the need for development of special gender terminology for sign language" she added. Speakers at the event discussed interventions that could help improve the lives of people in the deaf community, including the need for economic empowerment, communication integration and increased awareness amongst general society on the rights of deaf people.

Giving women a voice in local government

The Commission for Gender Equality's (CGE) Commissioner, Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla and the Mpumalanga Provincial Manager, Moltah Mavuso attended the South African Local Government Association's (SALGA) Mpumalanga Provincial Women's Commission Lekgotla in White River on Thursday, 4 August, under the theme, Reinforcing the voices of women in Local Government.

The Lekgotla, which was attended by 120 women from local government, assessed the level of representation of women in local government. It also discussed ways to capacitate women caucuses in municipalities and draft a plan of action for Mpumalanga's SALGA Women's Commission (SWC).

"I shared with delegates some of the findings and recommendations contained in our SAPS report, relating to the state of police station's capacity to support victims of gender-based violence" Commissioner Ntuli-Tloubatla said. The SWC was established in 2010 with the purpose of ensuring that gender mainstreaming receives adequate attention at local government.



CGE Mpumalanga Provincial Manager, Moltah Mavuso (left) and Commissioner Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla.

According to SALGA, one of the key roles of the SWC is to keep track of gender parity, women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in municipalities. This is done through gender audits, IDP analysis as well as monitoring meetings with municipalities. Commissioner Ntuli-Tloubatla delivered a message on gender equality and the constitutional mandate of the Commission. The CGE committed to working together with SALGA for the empowerment and advancement of women in South Africa.

CGE Limpopo Office educates community members to advance gender equality



Limpopo Education Officer Nkhensani Hlekani conducted a gender and development sensitisation outreach programme in Lephalale.

The Limpopo office of the Commission for Gender Equality conducted outreach programmes on 10 and 11 August. On 10 August, they conducted public education outreach in Danisani village in the Mapela Waterberg District. The purpose of this outreach programme was to educate community members on the mandate of the Commission, human and gender rights, and how they can access justice. Education Officer, Nkhensani Hlekani, addressed village community members on issues

relating to the promotion of gender equality. Community members were also reminded that they can lodge any gender related complaints with the Commission.

On 11 August, they hosted a gender and development sensitisation program with social workers at the Lephalale Palm Park Hotel. "We hope to strengthen collaborative efforts with social workers at community level for outreach and referral of cases," said Ms Hlekani.