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A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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EDITION 54

Intimate partner violence (IPV) among same sex couples.

An increase in intimate partner violence (IPV) inspired the University of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) to host a dialogue on support systems for IPV victims. The panel discussion focused on IPV amongst same sex couples.

how it assists victims who have lodged complaints to seek justice. The dialogue was hosted by the university's medical school at its HIV/AIDS and Support Unit on Monday, 19 September.

The Commission for Gender Equality's Legal Officer for KwaZulu Natal, Nomthandazo Sithole, discussed the Commission's outreach and education programmes that are rolled out in communities to fight stigma and empower people with knowledge. Sithole also shared information on the Commission's legal mandate and

"We look at reported cases and the challenges faced by complainants when and after they have reported cases to SAPS. We have noted that training and sensitization is still needed for SAPS members who assist complainants in the matters of gender-based violence and gender abuse" Sithole said.

Adding a voice to the NGM and GEYODI Machineries.

Commissioners Nomasonto Mazibuko and Ohara Ngoma-Diseko are attending consultative sessions hosted by the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities. The sessions started on Wednesday, 20 September with the National Gender Machinery (NGM) session and will continue until Friday, 23 September on the Gender, with Youth and Persons with Disabilities (GEYODI)

Machineries consultative sessions. The NGM's objective was to provide a platform for participants constituted with a view to reaching consensus about the planning and development issues affecting them, and to facilitate all the stakeholders in revisiting their gender mainstreaming agenda and practices; and reinventing their thought processes while creating an opportunity for

Advocacy and Advisory on key issues on interest. Amongst the GEYODI's objective was to establish procedures to facilitate effective identification of cross cutting issues that need to be urgently tackled in order to ensure institutional accountability on its mainstreaming.

Introducing CGE's own tv talk show on Dstv



To be aired every Thursday at 18:30 on
Channel 260



Tune in for the next six weeks and listen as CGE officials break down the mandate and work of the Commission and how it plans to promote and protect gender equality.



Fighting Hunger and Poverty in the Mpumalanga Rural Communities



The Mpumalanga office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) conducted a public education and outreach program with the community of Magogeni under the Mhlaba tribal council in Nkomazi Local Municipality. The programme was hosted on Tuesday, 20 September and addressed issues of hunger, poverty alleviation and climate change programs.

The CGE facilitated a dialogue where community members were afforded a platform to share their frustrations with regards to accessing services from various departments in the implementation of the SDGs by departments.

The role of the CGE in this engagement was to bring departments to the rural communities. One of these was the department of agriculture. "We wanted to find out as to what programmes do they provide in addressing some of the Sustainable Development Goals" said the Education Officer, Augustine Mabuza.

Some of the challenges raised by community members were lack of resources and minimal to none access to information in rural communities to enable them to start their own businesses. Community members expressed that nothing much is done by the government to address poverty-stricken people and to alleviate poverty for rural communities.