



Visit our website on www.cge.org.za

NEWSFLASH



Email us on info@cge.org.za

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

29 September 2022

EDITION 55

Empowering women of the Free State through development workshops and knowledge sharing engagements

The Free State office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) conducted a Gender and Development (GAD) Workshop on 15 and 16 September together with the Senekal Stakeholder Forum in Setsoto Local Municipality. In attendance were various civil society groups, religious organisations, and Departments of Justice and Correctional Services and Basic Education. The focus of the workshop was on CGE's mandate, gender related concepts and legislations, and sensitisation on sexual orientation, gender identity and protection of the rights of minority groups.

members of the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly in schools, thus it was important for the department of education to be part of the workshop," said CGE Education Officer in the province, Boitumelo Zwane.

The provincial office also hosted a widowhood stakeholder engagement in collaboration with SAWID, Free State widowhood Forum and the Free State House of Traditional Leaders, on 20 September. The session was a platform to share legislative knowledge on Wills, administration of deceased estates and recognition of customary marriages.

"Widowhood subjects' people, especially women in a compromised position particularly when important life plans were not put in place before the unfortunate occurrence of death. It is thus important to empower women on how to make life decision to ameliorate the negative impact that widowhood may bring," said Ms Zwane.

In addition to presentations by the Department of Justice and the The Master of the High Court, PostBank presented on financial planning to empower women on smart financial planning and financial management.



CGE's Free State Education Officer, Boitumelo Zwane at the recent engagement on widowhood and deceased estates.

Addressing GBV issues in the Eastern Cape's rural villages

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), office of the Eastern Cape hosted community dialogue sessions at the Emalahleni Local Municipality in Machubeni, Ezingqolweni and Tsembeyi villages. These community engagements were necessitated by the increasing crime in the municipality. The dialogue sessions opened a platform for community members to voice their concerns with government leaders. The CGE facilitated the gatherings to empower communities with awareness of their rights

and to also outline its role in curbing the scourge of violence. The community engagement also discussed solutions on how communities can act against gender-based violence.

"Our communities have lost faith in the justice system, but we hope that these engagements will rebuild the lost trust," said CGE's Provincial Manager, Nceba Mrwebo. The sessions identified challenges in assisting communities to deal with the growing scourge of gender-based violence in their villages.

The CGE and other chapter 9 institutions registered complaints during the engagements. Chairperson of the Commission, Tamara Mathebula addressed community members and reassured them that through monitoring visits, the CGE is working to ensure that police stations are responsive when dealing with cases of gender-based violence and abuse. CGE's Acting CEO, Dr Thembinkosi Twalo said the CGE would follow up on gender related issues raised by community members.



CGE chairperson Tamara Mathebula addressed dialogue sessions at the Emalahleni local municipality in rural Eastern Cape.

Review of the Women's Charter for Accelerated Development Report



Commissioner Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla, together with the Commission for Gender Equality Mpumalanga officials attended the Women's Charter for Accelerated Development Report Back Session on Friday, 23 September. Conducted in the Nkangala District in Mpumalanga, the session was hosted by Parliament to track gender mainstreaming progress as resolved in the Provincial High-Level Sessions. Ntuli-Tloubatla spoke on the constitutional mandate of the CGE and its role towards gender

equality, gender legislative frameworks and transformation, mainstreaming and international instruments. "International signatories to which South Africa is a signatory include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and are important as they not only hold us accountable, but also guide us in ensuring that our policies that aim to protect and promote equality are on an international scale," Ntuli-Tloubatla told delegates.