

## GBVF under spotlight ahead of Presidential Summit

Gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) is a form of patriarchy that lives in our society and dwells in many family structures, however, it must not be allowed to exacerbate. These are the words of the Commission for Gender Equality's Northern Cape Provincial Manager, Ms. Thembelihle Bongwana, during her address to stakeholders at the provincial summit on GBVF held from 28 – 29 September in Kimberley.

Bongwana called on the South African Police Service (SAPS) to attribute the correct definition to GBVF and give it the urgent response it warrants, "We can't have SAPS members alluding to GBVF as anything else other than a crime, because this will create an uproar in society, as it is unacceptable and wrong for communities to live in fear" she said.

The provincial summit was part of events conducted in preparation for the Presidential Summit on GBVF to take place on 1 – 2 November. The provincial summit provided a platform for people affected by GBVF to engage and discuss solutions. Its aim was to create stronger collaborative efforts to address issues of GBVF in the Northern Cape. Delegates also discussed issues such as substance abuse in communities, as well as bail and its structural challenges in the justice system.



**CGE's Northern Cape Provincial Manager, Thembelihle Bongwana**

The engagement was attended by the provincial SAPS, civil society organisations, and representatives of the Northern Cape provincial government. Bongwana called on individuals and communities to play active roles in raising awareness against GBVF, "We need to play our part & conduct ourselves appropriately when dealing with GBVF. The NSP on GBVF Collective Community condemns any inappropriate conduct that may negatively impact our work".



**Members of the provincial police management were amongst delegates who attended the Northern Cape provincial summit on the second day.**

## Celebrating Women in Agriculture and Agro-Processing



**CGE Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko (Left) and Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Honourable Thoko Didiza (MP) during the symposium in Boksburg.**

African women's participation in agriculture, land reform and rural development is generally unequal to that of men in many ways such as access to land, commercial farming, finance, technology, training, infrastructure, water, production inputs and markets. The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza, held a Symposium and Exhibition for Women in Agriculture and Agro-processing.

The event was aimed at increasing active participation of women in the sector for the sustainable social and economic wellbeing of households. The symposium was also aimed at exposing women farmers to available opportunities by conducting panel discussions moderated

under the thematic areas including financing opportunities for women, business development mechanisms, market access and women farming in communal land.

Speaking at the event, the Commission for Gender Equality's Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko commended female entrepreneurs who are making inroads in the sector, and called for more support for them, "The symposium has closed generational gaps, it is pleasing to witness different generations of women sharing knowledge to advance their business successes. Today's event will be a benchmark to measure progress made in the agricultural sector in a year's time" Mazibuko said.

## Gender and Development workshop for Ward Councillors



The KwaZulu Natal provincial office of the Commission for Gender Equality hosted a two-day Gender and Development workshop on 12 and 13 October in Bulwer. The workshop targeted stakeholders and Ward Committee members who form part of the Gender Forum in the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality under Harry Gwala District. Delegates included community development workers from the department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, social workers from the Department of Social Development, ward councillors, and members

of the Women's Caucus. Participants were identified at a prior engagement with the Gender Forum Members on 12 July 2022. It was observed that majority of the participants are newly elected councillors and committee members from all Wards under the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality. "We wanted to raise gender awareness and ensure that their community Development projects and programmes are gender responsive", said the KZN Education Officer, Thamsanqa Mncube.