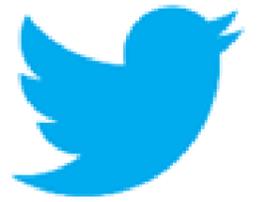




CGE TV

NEWSFLASH



A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

27 October 2022

EDITION 59

CGE_ZA

Tackling violence in schools



The Mpumalanga office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) conducted a public education and outreach program with learners from Pongutsha Secondary school in Katjibane village under the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality. The event, hosted on Tuesday, 25 October, was a collaboration with the Pongutsha Tribal Council, meant to address gender-based violence, bullying, and inequality in schools. This follows growing concerns of violent acts in schools, with pupils reported to be carrying guns, knives, and other weapons. "The high rate of violence reflects the kind of society we live in, and it has a negative impact on education. Bullying and sexual harassment of female learners may result in high teenage pregnancy, high rape cases in schools, high HIV infections rates and school dropouts"

said the province's Education Officer, Augustine Mabuza. The school was advised to create a safety school committee to address issues of crime and violence.

"Mobilize local communities to take ownership of the school. The school must also create relevant policies to deal with issues of violence, sexual harassment, and the use of prohibited substances within the school's premises" concluded Mabuza.

Inkosi CM Mahlangu acknowledged the presentation and requested for more schools to be engaged as the area is in serious threat. He said many of the incidents start at school and escalate into the community, compromising the school's function.

In preparation for the 2022 National Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Summit scheduled for 1 and 2 November, provinces have been hosting provincial summits of the same. The Eastern Cape office of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) attended their provincial summit on 19 October. The Premier of the Province, Lubabalo Mabuyane emphasised that

resources ought to be allocated to fight against the scourge of GBVF and said that the district development model must give expression to GBVF. The Social Development MEC, Bukiwe Fanta urged people to take steps against violence and abuse within their homes, churches, and communities.

Thabani Mdlongwa, a Researcher of the CGE also addressed delegates

Shaping young minds to progress gender equality

The Commission for Gender Equality's North-West Office attended the Gender Responsive Pedagogy Programme for early Childhood Education (GRP4ECE) launch on Wednesday, 19 October. The launch was organised by the Department of Basic Education in the Northwest province.

The programme's objective is to demystify traditional gender roles and to promote acceptance of different genders. The project is essential in addressing harmful gender norms and stereotypes from an early age to improve how children relate to each other, and how they perceive their potential. Furthermore, it holds the potential to develop gender-sensitive views of self and others in young minds, which could lead to an even more

gender-sensitive future generations, thus progressing towards the full realisation of gender equality. "Early childhood is a time when brain functions, learners' values, abilities, and behaviours are developing. Therefore, it is important for teachers and school officials to participate in addressing gender equality in the classroom" said the North-West Education Officer, Tsholofelo Sabole. They should encourage positive gender relations and provide equitable learning opportunities for both boys and girls, she added.

The GRP4ECE is also another preventative measure to address school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV).



in attendance. Mdlongwa spoke on a 2021 Research Report, One Step Forward, One Step Backwards, which aimed to assess the Current Government's Responses and Interventions to combat GBVF in the country. His presentation focused on the findings and recommendations of the report.

The Summit deliberated that the Annual Performance Plans must

contain GBVF indicators, and that the Eastern Cape must make strong recommendations at the National Summit that GBVF offenders must not get parole as most perpetrators become repeat offenders.

The Premier announced that the DNA laboratory will be ready by February 2023.