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CGE Welcomes New Chairperson and Commissioners



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Commissioners Leigh-Ann van der Merwe, Nomasonto Mazibuko, Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla, Adv Thando Gumede, Dibeela Mothupi, Prabashni Naidoo, Bongani Ngomane, Ohara Ngoma-Diseko.

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) gave a warm welcome to its new Chairperson and four Commissioners on Wednesday in a meeting that signalled a new era. Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale is the CGE's new chairperson and arrived with Mr Bongani Ngomane, Advocate Thando Gumede, Ms Prabashni Subrayan Naidoo and Ms Leigh-Ann van der Merwe as the new additional Commissioners. In a ceremony attended by old Commissioners and the CGE's management, Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko expressed gratitude in her welcome

address. "We are delighted to be joined by our new colleagues and we know that their knowledge will help the Commission achieve its Constitutional mandate during these challenging times of gender inequality and gender-based violence and femicide" she said. The new members of the Commission were announced by the Presidency on 25 February 2023 and joined Commissioners Nomasonto Mazibuko, Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla, Dibeela Mothupi, Busisiwe Deyi and Ohara Ngoma-Diseko. The new Commissioners' terms officially started on 01 March 2023.



CGE Provincial Manager Tshepang Mokgokong addresses the stakeholder engagement on women's economic empowerment.

Women in Business want gender barriers tackled

The South African government talks big on its commitment to women's economic empowerment, but its procurement actions tell a different story. This was the view of women entrepreneurs who participated in the economic forum organised by the Commission for Gender Equality in Limpopo. The gathering, which took place on 24 February 2023, women in business, provincial finance institutions and government policy makers together under one roof to discuss solutions to the barriers experienced by female entrepreneurs. In her opening remarks to the discussions, CGE Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko said the voice

of women is critical to assist policymakers and influence funding institutions. "The CGE is a monitoring institution entrusted with a responsibility to protect gender equality, this forum provides us with an opportunity to monitor and see whether government agencies are delivering what they promised with regard to the development of women," she said. In her main address, CGE's CEO Phelisa Nkomo said although the country's democracy was approaching 30 years, there are still many structural barriers to the economic empowerment of women in South Africa, "There's barriers we need to remove to ensure women's

economic empowerment, such as structural financial exclusion, sex for jobs in the workplace, the neglected informal sector, and traditional requirements of development finance institutions" Nkomo said. Limpopo Provincial Manager, Tshepang Mokgokong, said the office worked with stakeholders to organise the gathering for the benefit of women. "As the CGE, we are going to ensure that we hold government accountable for ensuring that the policies meant to uplift women are implemented fully" Mokgokong said.

Educating boys on teenage pregnancy in Free State schools



The Commission for Gender Equality in the Free State province together with the Departments of Health, Social Development and FAMSAs were on an outreach initiative at Phephetso Secondary School in Kroonstand, to address young boys on issues such as teenage pregnancy, statutory rape, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, GBVF, sexuality and mental health. The campaign was implemented on the premises that GBVF cannot be eradicated without the involvement of men and boys.

The outreach was facilitated by Ms Naomi Tloome from the Department of Health and addressed boys on sexual reproductive rights and teenage pregnancy. The learners were engaged in a discussion on social issues, crime, suicide prevention, gender inequality and substance abuse. The school principal and educators welcomed the initiative and expressed their gratitude to CGE and partners for grooming the young boys.