



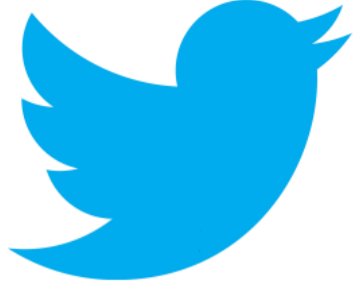
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CGE Brings Together Parties, Civil Society to Discuss State of Gender Balance in Leadership



CGE Deputy Chairperson Nomasonto Mazibuko, Commissioners and CEO joined by representatives of civil society and political parties at the multiparty engagement.

The pace of gender transformation in the country is not satisfactory and more effort is needed from institutions to change the lives of ordinary women. This was a consensus from various speakers who participated in the Commission for Gender Equality's multiparty engagement held in Johannesburg on Thursday. The Commission hosted the gathering to take forward the work it has started of monitoring the representation of women across the political party landscape and local government. "The engagement was to give us guidance in implementing gender transformation and also plant a seed as we start to collectively deal with stereotypical challenges that affect how women are treated in our society" said CGE CEO, Ms Phelisa Nkomo during her opening remarks. "Women who are in leadership receive a lot of criticism which borders

on interrogation and gender-based scrutiny and that needs to change" she added. The CGE presented its report of a study conducted to assess gender representation in the 2021 local government elections. "In the 2021 elections, women's representation was 37% down from 46% in the previous local government elections of 2016" said CGE Researcher Ms Mpelo Malebye as she tabled the study's findings and recommendations. "Women constitute 50% of the global population but are under-represented in decision-making processes at local government across the world because they do not have access to resources in political leadership" said Ms Lindokuhle Malambe from the CSV. The engagement was attended by representatives from civil society organisations, government entities and political parties.

Kenyan Committee on National Cohesion Hails CGE Work in Study Visit to South Africa

The Kenyan government committee on national cohesion and equal opportunities hailed the work done by the Commission for Gender Equality in promoting and protecting gender equality in South Africa. The committee visited the CGE on Tuesday as part of its tour to study best practices. The purpose of the meeting was to provide members of Kenya's committee with an opportunity to appraise itself with the international best practices and study the policies and strategies implemented in South Africa to embrace workforce diversity. The delegation leader, Kenyan member of Parliament Mr Charles Ong'ondo, said the meeting helped them identify principles and strategies that have enabled South Africa to uphold its internal reputation in human rights.



"We have enquired on institutional frameworks that promote employment diversity in South Africa and learnt ways of promoting representation of marginalised groups, especially with regards to the obligation of parliaments to pass laws that promote equitable representation" he said. The Kenyan delegation



Members of the Kenyan delegation during their meeting with CGE on Tuesday. LEFT: Commissioner Adv Thando Gumede.

was taken through different presentations on research, public education and information, legal services, policy development, legislation initiatives, effective monitoring and litigation and public communications by CGE's heads of departments. "The visit by the delegation from Kenya gives us an opportunity to share what we have

done and learn from our counterparts in Kenya" said CGE Deputy Chairperson Ms Nomasonto Mazibuko. CGE Commissioner Adv Thando Gumede said it was important for the two countries to also address gender-related issues happening in the broader continent, such as the oppression of the LGBTQIA communities and harmful cultural practices.

Helping Municipalities Ensure Gender Transformation in the Workplace

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in the Free State conducted a gender mainstreaming workshop at Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality in Phuthadijhaba. The workshop was attended by Directorates such as community services, human resources, legal services, special programmes, and members of the mayoral committee. The CGE raised concerns on the positioning of gender focal persons in local government. During the workshop CGE's Education Officer, Boitumelo Zwane highlighted key generic gender

issues as observed in local government. "The CGE recommends on the administrative appointment and progressive professionalisation of the gender focal persons," said Ms Zwane. Ms Samantha Britz, CGE's Free State Provincial Manager, presented a preliminary report of CGE's observations. "It is generally observed that the EE plan and policy must be reviewed by the municipality to ensure that the policy and plan addresses the current transformation needs," said Ms Britz.