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A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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Members of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities during a recent meeting with the Commission for Gender Equality in Mpumalanga.

CGE Pleased With Parliament's Oversight Visit To Mpumalanga Province

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) is pleased with the successful oversight visit to Mpumalanga province by the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities on 18 April 2023. The CGE accompanied the committee to a Thuthuzela Care Centre at the Themba hospital in Kabokweni, a police station in Masoyi and a shelter

of the Greater Rape Intervention Programme in Mbombela. The GRIP provides support and shelter to victims of rape. The purpose of the oversight visit by the committee was to monitor the level of compliance in providing victim-friendly services for victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual offences and assess the capacity of police stations in assisting victims.

The Portfolio Committee decried the deplorable state in which the Themba hospital care centre and the Greater Rape Intervention Programme (GRIP) were found. Following these findings, the Portfolio Committee held an urgent meeting with the CEOs of GRIP, Thuthuzela Care Centre, the Mpumalanga Office of the Premier, provincial department of Social

Development, and the Department of Justice on 20 April 2023. During the meeting, commitments and clear deliverables were put in place to ensure that the conditions found at Themba hospital TCC and GRIP are urgently attended to. The CGE will monitor the implementation progress.



CGE wishes all workers a happy Workers Day on 01 May 2023.

CGE Gets Recognition for Empowerment Programmes In The Northern Cape

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) was recognised for its collaborative work and stakeholder engagement initiatives in the Northern Cape province, including its awareness campaigns and public education outreach on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

"The CGE in Northern Cape has been involved in various interventions and campaigns in partnership with the Department of Social Development. We have embarked on initiatives such as door-to-door campaigns, public education, community consultations, collaborative and problem-solving engagements" said Keneilwe Mokalane.

The MEC for Social Development in the Northern Cape Ntokozo Vilakazi awarded a certificate of excellence to CGE's Education Officer in the Northern Cape, Ms Keneilwe Mokalane, for her participation in the provincial empowerment programmes. The ceremony took place at an evening function in Kimberley attended by provincial stakeholders and organised by the department of social development.



Commissioner Adv Gumedé with Keneilwe Mokalane and officials from the CGE Northern Cape office.

In her address to the gathering, CGE commissioner Advocate Thando Gumedé emphasised the importance of taking GBVF awareness campaigns to schools, and the implementation of LGBTQIA education programmes. The awards ceremony was followed by an Integrated GBV program on human trafficking and GBVF.



Have we created a good environment for women's liberation?

Opinion Piece by Leandi Esterhuizen

Former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke titled his memoir "My own Liberator" and through narrating his life story, asks the reader to question the state of affairs at present day. Through doing the work of the Commission for Gender Equality, we should continue to ask ourselves, have we created an environment for the women of South Africa to become their own liberators. With systematic and meticulous intent, it is our duty to examine and interrogate government's initiatives aimed at empowering and uplifting women, with the guiding light our Constitution provides and our past, which informs it. Our questions should deliberate and should with an unwavering

consistency, demand of our government to better implement its transformation measures. And when we consider transforming our society, we should know with the utmost certainty, what we want. For the vision of our Constitution to be realized, we cannot simply attempt to change how our society looks, but we must change how it functions. We are duty bound to ask with ringing clarity, why the lives of so many have not been touched by the freedoms and values upon which our Constitution is built. We are duty bound to ask our government, why we are not able to become our own liberators.

Leandi Esterhuizen is a Legal Officer at the CGE

