

We Wish Our Netball National Team Success In The World Cup – CGE Chairperson



CGE Chairperson, Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale.

RIGHT: The South African National Netball Squad.



Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality, Adv Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale, has sent a special message to the South African National Netball Team ahead of their opening game at the Netball World Cup in Cape Town. The tournament, which features sixteen countries separated into four groups, started today, and will run until 06 August. "We are in an

exciting season of witnessing greatness in women's sport. While our women's football team is participating in the FIFA World Cup in New Zealand, our netball national team is also playing in the netball world cup in Cape Town. As the Commission, we are proud and rooting for our national netball team, we believe that they will take full advantage and fly our

flag high" Sepanya-Mogale said. Prior to the opening ceremony, the South African National Defence Force will conduct a spectacular fly-by above the Cape Town International Convention Centre, where the tournament is being held. South Africa will play its opening game against Wales.

Concerns Over High Underage Pregnancy Rate in Rural KwaZulu-Natal

By Lungelo Mesh

Umzimkhulu Municipality in the Harry Gwala district has one of the highest rates of child pregnancy in KwaZulu-Natal province. This is according to Buyiswa Maqhekeza, Gender Officer at the Municipality, in her remarks during the public education programme conducted by the Commission for Gender Equality at a community hall on Wednesday. The outreach had delegates from NZM LGBTQIA+, Umzimkhulu Municipality and Red Cross and learners from Zwelinzima High School.

Maqhekeza called on parents to play a role in preventing child pregnancies, "Children are falling pregnant and getting married and parents are fully supporting all this" she said. CGE's Education Officer in the province, Thamsanqa Mncube, facilitated discussions on various other topics such as gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), LGBTQIA rights, HIV/AIDS and the CGE mandate. According to high school girls who participated in the discussion, the reason there's a high rate of learner pregnancy is that pregnancy-prevention programmes are more focused on girls and not boys. "If boys could also be included in such programmes they will know better and play their part in preventing teenage pregnancy" they



Ms Buyiswa Maqhekeza and Mr Thami Mncube.

said. Mncube said living conditions in rural areas also contribute to girls being exposed to being victims of sexual offences. "Having to travel long distances to fetch water and firewood puts them at risk of sexual violence, if we can treat children equally, we will stand a good chance to achieve gender equality", he said. Mncube added that unequal distribution of household chores prevents or deprives young girls the opportunity to focus on their studies, which leads to school dropouts amongst other problems.

Inducting Local Forums on Gender Mainstreaming



By Lungelo Mesh

The Commission for Gender Equality, in collaboration with Greater Kokstad Municipality visited Franklin Cultural Village in KwaZulu-Natal on Thursday, to conduct a gender mainstreaming session to ensure that newly appointed men and women forums mainstream gender within the municipality. The session had representatives from Lifeline and Kokstad Municipality who educated the leaders on leadership skills and employment equality.

Ms. Esethu Nkaule, Gender Officer at Kokstad Municipality stated the purpose of the day "today's session is meant to capacitate and serves as an orientation for newly elected men+women forums. The realisation of mainstreaming needs to reflect in our policies but as guided by the laws that govern the state. This means that we need to work backwards to ensure inclusivity", she said. Thamsanqa Mncube, CGE's Education Officer in the province spoke on gender equality in the workplace. **To Page 2**

Ms Esethu Nkaule, Gender Officer at the Kokstad Municipality.



From Page 1

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"The realisation of mainstreaming needs to reflect in our policies as guided by the laws that govern the country. This means that we need to work backwards in order to ensure inclusivity", she said.

Thamsanqa Mncube, Education Officer at the CGE engaged with the forums on gender equality in the workplace, "As newly elected forums representing men and women within the municipality you need to do gender analysis, gather sex disaggregated data, assess and evaluate gender infrastructure to mainstream different needs and priorities of both women and men within the municipality," he said. The KwaZulu-Natal office of the Commission for Gender Equality continues to hold engagements with various stakeholders across the province to impact communities on gender awareness.

Addressing Gender Equality Social Inclusive in the world of work

By Lungelo Mesh

Western Cape Commission for Gender Equality, Provincial Manager Sixolile Ngcobo was part of the Nedbank Top Empowerment Conference 2023, discussing implementing LGBTQI+ inclusive policies and safe spaces at the Maslow hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg. Sixolile responded to questions such as how intersectionality can be integrated into LGBTQIA+ inclusive policies to address the unique challenges and experiences of individuals who belong to multiple marginalized groups, How can policy implementation be tailored to address these intersectional needs. "Addressing Gender Equality Social Inclusive in the world of work using intersectionality allows for a conducting environment where diverse, equity, inclusion leads to substantive belonging which is ultimate desired outcome for all", said Ngcobo during a panel discussion with Renaldo Schwarp.

CGE Educates Parolees On Its Mandate, Effects And Prevention Of GBVF

Mr Rabbuh Raletsemo, from CGE's Public Education and Information Department.



Officials from the Commission for Gender Equality engaged with parolees at the Durban Community Correctional Centre on Tuesday to educate them on its mandate and the effects and prevention of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The engagement was attended by representatives from Families South Africa and Centre for Community Impact, who educated the parolees on anger management and social reintegration.

you are a man you can lead, protect and provide," said Raletsemo. In line with our constitutional mandate, we had this engagement with parolees to say that as part of their integration back into society, how can they avoid pressures that can lead them to behaving in ways that can compromise their paroles," Raletsemo added.

He explained that men are encouraged to use counselling services where available and not to use alcohol to solve their problems. "Society must stop imposing harmful ideas of toxic masculinity such as the notion that men shouldn't cry in difficult times because it damages them, as they are also human beings" said Thobeka Zulu from NICRO.

Rabbuh Raletsemo, Deputy Director for Public Education at CGE, engaged with the parolees on the benefits of working with men and boys, "Patriarchy is harmful for men as it assumes they are capable to do what they are not trained for, the problem starts when the society puts pressure and assumptions that just because



Could forcing rural widows to wear mourning clothes, violate their rights?

Opinion Piece by Thembi Madalane

According to Maputo protocol article 20, parties must take appropriate legal measures to protect widows from inhuman, humiliating, or degrading treatment so they can enjoy all their human rights. The Republic of South Africa Constitution is the supreme law of the country.

Section 7 (1) of the Constitution states that the Bill of Rights is the cornerstone of democracy in South Africa. It enshrines all people's rights in our country and affirms democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. Section 9 (1) states that everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and the benefit of the law. Section 9(2) provides that equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. Section 15 (1) states that everyone has the right to freedom of conscience,

religion, thought, belief and opinion. Despite this, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) still receives complaints from widows from rural areas alleging that traditional leaders force them to wear mourning clothes, contrary to their religious beliefs.

Widows who fail to wear mourning clothes are fined by the traditional leadership. This demonstrates that widows are still fighting customs that perpetuate discrimination and limit their freedom under Traditional Leadership. The fear of victimization coerces them into complying the instruction to wear mourning clothes, despite this being against their religious beliefs. Section 15 of the Constitution clearly states that no person may be discriminated against. **(To read the full piece, visit www.cge.org.za – under Articles)**

Thembi Madalane is a Legal Officer at the CGE



**NETBALL
WORLD CUP
CAPE TOWN 2023**