

Calling on Public Entities to Open Economic Access to Rural Women



Nkhensani Hlekani speaking on accelerating women's socio-economic opportunities for women's empowerment.

By Nkhensani Hlekani

Economic empowerment and economic inclusivity require women to have access to productive assets, property, land, agricultural activities, markets and trade, finances, technology, education and training, skills development, and health services, this involves breaking down the barriers that limit women to access resources. These were the words of Nkhensani Hlekani, who is the Commission for Gender Equality's (CGE) Public Education Officer in Limpopo

Hlekani was addressing delegates at the provincial women's month launch, which was held under the theme "Accelerating socio-economic opportunities for women's empowerment". "Public institutions must ensure that information on government initiatives and programs geared towards empowering women must reach all women, especially the ones in disadvantaged areas of the Limpopo province" she added.

Finding ways for women to access leadership, innovation, and technology

By Lungelo Mesh

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) participated in the women's commission lekgotla organized by the South African Local Government Association in Mpumalanga, where discussions centred on innovation and technology for gender equality. In her address to the gathering, Provincial Manager Moltah Mavuso highlighted some of challenges faced by women, "Gender activists and feminists have over the years provided us with enough reasons for women to be

represented in leadership, we need to make an assessment to ensure that our leaders advance the interest of women in every sphere", she said. The SALGA Women's Commission Lekgotla serves as a platform for key stakeholders, government officials, civil society organizations, and media to come together and discuss pertinent issues related to women's empowerment, gender mainstreaming, and local government.



CGE's Provincial Manager in Mpumalanga, Ms Moltah Mavuso during her remarks at SALGA Women's Commission. Mavuso said more women are needed in decision-making positions if South Africa is to realise real women's economic empowerment.

CGE To Embark on College Campus GBVF Intervention Visits

The CGE will embark on engagements with three TVET colleges in the North West province to implement advocacy interventions to strengthen TVET college safety through dialogues and transformation workshops. The Commission intends to empower TVET college leadership structures with identifying transformation policy gaps, and measures to ensure learner safety.

Through the engagements, the Commission will partner with the Department of Higher Education & Training, Higher Health, South African Police Services, Psychosocial Service Bodies, and other relevant stakeholders on capacity building for GBVF, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, to create an enabling and a safe environment for the Institutions and female students, whilst instilling respect, protection, promotion of human rights as enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution. The engagements will start with a visit to Tletso TVET College in Mahikeng on 10 August 2023.

Accelerating Socio-Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment

#WomensMonth2023 #WomensDay2023



Poor service delivery contributing to gender inequality

Opinion Piece by Leandi Esterhuizen

In her most recent report¹ the Auditor-General confirmed that the Free State is in dire straits. The continued state of poor financial management and project planning has severely impacted the consistent process of providing quality basic water and sanitation services throughout the province.

The Constitution enshrines the right to water in section 27(1)(b), which states that "Everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water" and section 27(2) confirms that "The State must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights". In an effort to give effect to this right, the State enacted the Water Services Act, 108 of 1997. In section 3(1) of the Act it states that "Everyone has the right to access to basic water supply and basic sanitation". Amnesty International South Africa aptly stated in a press release on Women's Day in 2021, that

women and girls are most severely affected by service delivery failures especially when it concerns issues of water and sanitation. When communities do not have access to a safe water supply inside the home, women are often burdened with the task of collecting water for the household. Women also experience the real fear of assault and harassment when then they do not have access to toilets inside their homes, as they are required to leave their homes to relieve themselves at night. Various research has been conducted on factors that contribute to the escalation of GBVF. However, there is very little data available on how poor municipal service delivery can be a catalyst which fuels GBVF and more so how victims of GBVF who need to access GBVF response services may be hindered from accessing such services due to the impact of poor or lack of service delivery. **(To read the full piece, visit www.cge.org.za - under Articles)**

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