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“We Ask CGE To Enforce President’s 40% Pronouncement” – Deputy Minister Gina

Deputy Minister for the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ms Nomalungelo Gina.



By Keletso Rampeng

The Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ms Nomalungelo Gina, has called on the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) to hold accountable, government departments that do not set aside 40% of their procurement to women-owned businesses. Gina was speaking at a roundtable discussion organised by the CGE and BBBEE Commission on Thursday in Pretoria, under the theme, 'Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment through B-BBEE'. The dialogue reflected on policies pertaining to women's economic empowerment, interrogating the gap in

policies with a view to uplifting women in business, to explore ideas on how to align existing policies to B-BBEE and promote good corporate governance and compliance. CGE's Head of Research and Policy, Dr. Thembinkosi Twalo shared insight on the work the Commission has done on assessing compliance with President Cyril Ramaphosa's 40% pronouncement, "As much as we welcome the President's procurement, there was no sufficient implementation, and this is partly due to the lack of legislation in this regard" he said.

CGE Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko and Deputy Director for Research, Naledi Selebano (BELOW) speaking during the dialogue.



Addressing Gender Parity And Gender-Based Political Violence



By Lungelo Mesh

Commission For Gender Equality, Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko gave an overview of the state progress in gender parity in politics and political representatives in South Africa during a Women's dialogue on gender parity and gender-based violence, hosted by the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) in Sandton, Johannesburg on Wednesday. Commissioner Ohara- Ngoma Diseko said that the CGE monitors gender parity in elections, and women's participation in decision making positions, "We are concerned about that and that is very much in the hands of the people you put in legislature", she said. Ohara Ngoma-Diseko further stated that since 1996, the CGE has been monitoring and reporting on elections to see how South Africa is handling gender parity and if women are advancing to

leadership position and making changes to ensure equitable of public goods to the citizens. "55% of the voting population are women, yet women's representation and participation in politics is often confronted with barriers ranging from economic, to cultural, electoral systems and political parties. The call is for the substantive representation of women that leads transformative gender policies and programming that benefits all women", said Ohara-Ngoma Diseko.

Minister of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities, Ms Nkosazana- Dlamini Zuma delivered a keynote speech and one of the issues highlighted was gender-based violence, she also emphasized leaders to empower young girls, "We must create structures in communities and institutions, and think of stronger programmes that will prevent GBV."

CGE Calls Department of Health To Account on Forced Sterilisation Progress



Prof Nicholas Crisp appearing before the Commission for Gender Equality in Johannesburg.

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) held a follow-up hearing with the National Department of Health (NDOH) led by its Deputy Director- General Professor Nicholas Crisp, on the forced sterilisation matter. Out of concern over the lack of progress by the NDOH in implementing its investigation recommendations, the CGE exercised its statutory powers in terms of Section 12 (4) (b) of the CGE Act 39 of 1996 to call the NDOH to account, on 29 August 2023. The CGE also used this opportunity to inform the NDOH of seven Intersex Genital Mutilation

(IGM) complaints that it had received. IGM practices include non-consensual, irreversible, cosmetic genital surgeries, and/or other harmful medical treatments that are done without any medical justification on intersex persons. The NDOH committed to providing a substantive report regarding the forced sterilisation investigation by 29 September 2023. The CGE further requested the NDOH to provide a plan of action regarding the IGM investigation no later than 30 October 2023.

CGE Helps TVET Colleges in North West Create Safe Gender Space On Campuses



By Keletso Rampeng

The Commission for Gender Equality in the North-West continued on its campaign to visit TVET colleges in the province to address the lack of gender transformation and safety of students on campuses.

The Commission held an engagement with the management of the Orbit TVET college at its Brits campus on Tuesday, which was followed by an engagement with students on Wednesday. The engagements are used by the CGE to conduct follow-ups on the implementation of its previous recommendations with a view to ensure gender transformation in institutions of higher learning.

CGE's Provincial Manager in the North West, Ms Joyce Khutsoane said the engagements allowed the Commission to assess the progress made by TVET colleges in addressing recommendations it made in its previous report, "We are not here on a fault-finding mission,

but here to assist in coming up with ideas to curb gender-based violence and create a safe space for staff and students so that they can be able to talk about gender-based violence without any fear." she said.

Orbit college's Brits Campus Manager, Ms Tebogo Tlhophile said CGE's visit was a positive empowerment session for the institution, "It was good to listen to gender specialists talk to us about issues related to gender-based violence. We now know the importance of creating safe gender spaces in our environment," she said.

CGE's Rabbuh Raletsemo engaged with college management on some of the causes of GBVF on campus "some of the causes include gender norms, society, stereotypes, lack of conducive student residences and general hate towards LGBTQIA members," he said.



Delegates from CGE joined officials from City of Johannesburg and Department of Social Development to discuss topics such as gender issues, gender equality, women's empowerment, gender rights, gender mainstreaming, women and financial stability. The event was hosted by Cllr Loyiso Masuku, MMC for Group Corporate and Shared Services, last week in Brixton, Johannesburg. CGE Education Officer, Koketso Sekhu educated women on gender rights and gender mainstreaming during her address.

Commission Believes Marriage Bill Will Ensure Equality And Regulation

By Bradley Swanepoel

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) participated in a Ministerial Dialogue on the proposed Marriage Bill hosted by the Department of Home Affairs at Constitution Hill in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, last week. Historically, South African marriage laws have been fraught with inequality and unfair discrimination especially in relation to gender, sexual orientation, culture, and religion. Many court decisions declaring laws regulating marriage to be unconstitutional illustrate this.

Currently, marriage in South Africa is regulated in a piece-meal fashion by multiple different statutes, such as the Marriage Act, Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, and the Civil Unions Act. One of the Bill's primary objectives therefore is to unify marriage laws into one statute.

"The Commission for Gender Equality welcomes the Marriage Bill. It means that we will see less child marriages in South Africa" said CGE Deputy Chairperson, Nomasonto Mazibuko. The Deputy Chair explained that the CGE is in support of the Bill, as the unification of marriage laws into one statute ensures that aspects of equality and dignity are adhered to regardless of gender, sexual orientation, culture, or religion.



CGE Deputy Chairperson, Nomasonto Mazibuko

The Bill also contains provisions that seeks to protect minors, in particular, the requirement that prospective spouses must be 18 years of age or older. This provision will prevent child marriages, in accordance with South Africa's international law obligations. The CGE is of the view that the Bill also needs to contain more culturally specific references in its definitions and go further in ensuring proper consent is obtained from prospective partners to a polygamous marriage. The Marriage Bill was published by Parliament for public comments by 31 August 2023. The CGE's Parliamentary Liaison Unit will be forwarding its submission on the Bill.

Promoting and Building Equality In The Northern Cape

The Commission for Gender Equality in the Northern Cape participated in a women's forum organized by the Auditor-General South Africa, and the Northern Cape Business Unit. Provincial Manager, Thembelihle Bongwana spoke on building equality, where she acknowledged strides and wins made by the 1956 group of about 20,000 women who marched to the Union Buildings. Bongwana highlighted challenges that

are prominent in post-democratic South Africa, and that impede the attainment of gender equality such as unemployment and poverty. "The overall vision for any workplace should be around fostering and promoting diversity, inclusivity, transformation, equality, social responsiveness, excellence and an institutional sustainability plan" said Bongwana in her closing remarks.

Challenges Facing Women In Mining



PM attended a 'Women in Mining' launch at Beeshoek Mine in Posmasburg, where she also spoke on the progress made, challenges that still exist and unpacked foundational measures as per the Minerals Council's benchmark of transformation in mines.

Further citing the points made in recommendations by the CGE's 2016 report titled "Failing Gender Transformation in Mining" as background to our current Gender Mainstreaming commitments with the mine.