

CGE Engages SAPS, NPA In GBV Fight In Gauteng



Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko addressing the stakeholder session in Pretoria.

Without efficient cooperation amongst the South African Police Service (SAPS), National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Courts, the fight against gender-based violence and femicide will not be successful, said Gauteng Provincial Manager for the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), Ms Khutso Monyepao. She was addressing a high-level stakeholder gathering hosted by the Commission in Pretoria on Tuesday. The engagement was attended by senior representatives from the NPA and SAPS' provincial office. CGE Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko reminded the crime-fighting

state entities that they have a critical role to play in ending sexual violence in the country, "One of the critical mechanisms that will make our GBVF oversight meaningful and impactful, is a working collaboration with critical stakeholders and strengthening of relations with organs of state for the purpose of ensuring the promotion and protection of gender equal rights" Ngoma-Diseko said. The CGE invited SAPS, NPA, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the Department of Health to share their programmes in relation to gender-based violence and femicide. "We initiated this meeting

out of concern about the alarming statistics of gender-based violence in the province and the country," she added.

Ngoma-Diseko said the Commission was pleased with the three pieces of legislation that were passed to fight against sexual offences, but more needs to be done, "We need strengthened capacity within the criminal justice system to address femicide, strengthen existing responses, care and support services provided by the state and civil society" she said.

NPA's advocate Carina Coetzee said the engagement was a good platform to coordinate ideas and solutions, "The participation of stakeholders is central to the provision of a victim-friendly response informed by speed and sensitivity to reduce secondary victimisation" she said.



Community Seeks Commission's Support

By Augustine Mabuza

The community of Nikabuyengwa in Mpumalanga made a request to the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) during an outreach session last week in Bertiesgood to bring more programmes that will educate them on gender-based violence (GBV). The community session was attended by headmen and women from the Tribal Council of Nikabuyengwa. CGE Education Officer in Mpumalanga, Augustine Mabuza educated the attendees on issues related to gender inequality within traditional spaces, including harmful cultural practices and GBV. The community also made a plea to the CGE to intervene in their local police station as they are experiencing challenges regarding policing.

CGE Conducts Policy Dialogues on School Drop-Out by Pregnant Adolescent Girls

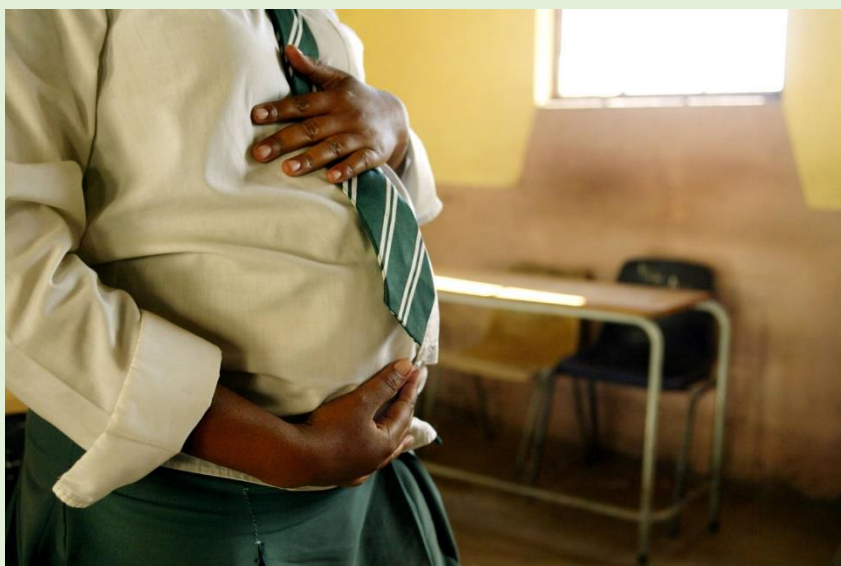


Photo: Esa Alexander/Sunday Times

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) is conducting policy dialogues on "School Dropout of Adolescent Girls during Pregnancy and in the Postpartum Period Policy Dialogue". The first policy dialogue was held in Durban on 08 September. The second is taking place today in Polokwane. The policy dialogue series is part of the dissemination of research findings following the publication of a research report titled "Learner pregnancy-policy interplay: School dropout of adolescent girls during pregnancy and in the postpartum period in selected South African provinces". The research study explored the reasons for school dropout by adolescent girls during pregnancy and in the postpartum period. It also investigated the social, cultural, legislative, and economic factors that pose as barriers to school attendance by adolescent girls during pregnancy and after giving birth. "The research

was undertaken in the three provinces with the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy in the 2019/2020 financial year, i.e., Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal" said Dr Thembinkosi Twalo, CGE's Head of Research. "The policy dialogue was attended by a range of stakeholders including civil society, government departments, Ms. Naledi Selebano presented the research findings that were followed by very rich deliberations" Twalo added. Issues that were discussed include roles of parents (the extent to which parents play or don't play their roles in educating their children about sex); social media (the unintended consequences of promoting digital access to everyone and how people could ensure that children are prevented from the inappropriate material in their phones and computers); legal and policy confusion.

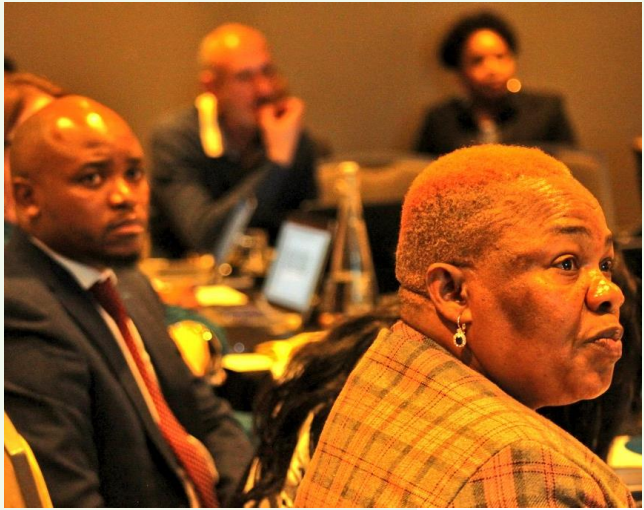
Mpumalanga Women Hold Dialogue on GBV

By Augustine Mabuza

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in Mpumalanga, conducted a 'Women's Month Talk' workshop at Sappi Lomati, Barberton. The dialogue addressed issues of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Women Economic Empowerment, Reproductive rights and issues faced by women in the workplace among other topics.

The women voiced their opinions on employer treatment and how it can be improved. They further made recommendations for more workshops, specifically on sexual harassment and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) aimed at educating employees on their rights and responsibilities.

Private And Public Sector Entities Appear Before Commission To Account For Gender Transformation



By Lungelo Mesh

The CGE held follow-up hearings with two government departments and a private company to assess their gender transformation progress.

The Departments of Water and Sanitation, and Small Business Development and Clover SA appeared before the Commission for Gender Equality in follow-up public hearings on gender transformation in the workplace. The CGE called the three entities to monitor the progress they have made since they last appeared before it in November 2022. The hearings seek to address institutional and systematic barriers to gender diversity and upliftment of women in workplaces. The hearings also seek to raise awareness on the country's commitments to gender transformation and the importance of compliance.

"The CGE is happy with the work that the Department of Water and Sanitation and Clover SA have done thus far, however we are not happy with the outcomes from the Department of Small Business and Development as they did not in any way respond sufficiently to the recommendations that we had made to them," said CGE's Chairperson Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale. She further said that "we gave the department of Water and Sanitation together with Clover SA timelines of growth so they can progressively realise the goals that we have set for them" she said.

Dr Sean Phillips from the Department of Water and Sanitation made a presentation on the department's progress in implementing the Commission's recommendations. He explained the nature of challenges experienced by Water and Sanitation in ensuring access to water in many areas. Ms Bernalene Adam, Group Head of Human Resources at Clover SA highlighted the progress the company has made since its appearance before the Commission. Her report included the appointment of an Employment Equity Manager and an increase of workers with disabilities from 0.6% to 0.75%, "however we admit that this is still below

target" she said. CGE's acting CEO, Dr Dennis Matotoka said the Commission welcomed Clover's appointment of an Employment Equity manager, "Gender transformation is not a ticking box exercise, everything organisations do should be intentional to ensure results" he said.

"One of the recommendations we made to Clover SA was for them to review their sexual harassment policy to ensure that it is aligned with the code of good practice on the prevention and elimination of harassment in the workplace," said Tsietsi Shuping, CGE's acting head of the legal department.

Taking Gender Education to Communities and SAPS in Gauteng

By Lungelo Mesh

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) conducted a public education outreach to discuss issues related to men and boys and marginalised communities, in Tembisa, Johannesburg last Tuesday. The activity was done in partnership with the Ingxoxo organisation and supported by the Gauteng Liquor Board and Gauteng Department of Social Development. The aim was to educate fathers on the CGE's mandate. Various topics were discussed, including 'the role of the father in the family', 'a father maintaining mentorship', 'fatherhood and religion', and 'the role of unemployed fathers'. The CGE also

also visited Tembisa police station as part of oversight and stakeholder engagement, "We are here to promote gender equality and during our engagement with South African Police officials, they raised issues such as advocacy and legislative framework, accountability, involvement of community stakeholders to promote gender equality, community mobilization so that the CGE can run campaigns that are active and that will not leave anyone behind, we are glad that they see a need for equality in the workplace", said Koketso Sekhu, CGE's Education Officer in Gauteng.

Ntuli-Tloubatla Speaks of Women's Worth and Impact

The Department of Education in the Ehlanzeni district hosted a session to honour women at the Mashego community hall in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga on the 30th of August 2023. Commissioner Lindiwe Ntuli-Tloubatla of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) conducted a presentation on the Constitutional Mandate of the CGE and Gender Based Violence. Ntuli-Tloubatla spoke on casual factors and triggers of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), the types of GBVF and the steps to follow when you

fall victim to GBVF as well as the role of the CGE in helping curb the scourge of GBVF curbing GBVF. Ntuli-Tloubatla went on to encourage the women in attendance and reminded them of who they are "women of worth and impact, strong and zealous. Women fit for purpose and ready to use available legislation to protect their rights and fight GBVF in our communities." The commissioner, closed off by placing great emphasis on the reporting of cases of GBVF.

CGE Commissioners Conduct Oversight At Correctional Facilities



CGE Commissioner Prabashni Subrayan-Naidoo conducted an oversight monitoring visit to the Rustenburg Correctional Centre in the North West province.

By Keletso Rampeng

The Commission for Gender Equality's Commissioner, Prabashni Subrayan-Naidoo conducted an oversight visit to the Rustenburg correctional centre on Wednesday to monitor the extent to which the department of correctional services protects gender equality in its facilities. During the visit, commissioner Naidoo also reviewed the centre's policies to assess their inclusion and protection of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and the LGBTQIA community. The Commissioner, supported by the Commission's Legal Officer, Nothemba Sonjica, took the centre management through the

Commission's constitutional mandate. "A part of our mandate as the commission for gender equality is to monitor policies and practices of organs of state, private businesses, and other institutions to promote gender equality and make recommendations where needed," Naidoo said during her address.

In recent weeks the Commission conducted oversight tours of correctional facilities in the Free State province, is scheduled to visit more facilities in the North West, KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and the Western Cape.