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Centre Tells CGE Of Difficulties in Assisting GBV And Domestic Violence Victims

The Lenasia Thuthuzela Care Centre receives about ten patients a day who need urgent support and assistance after experiencing various types of sexual offences and domestic violence. However, the centre is struggling to cope without adequate resources and sufficient support from the surrounding police stations.

The centre says most rape victims who need its assistance had their cases postponed several times, leading to many of them eventually dropping the charges due to the frustration they experience. "Some cases are postponed up to twenty times because of challenges such as rape kits, poor collection of evidence and delayed investigations" said advocate Dorcas Shabangu, who is responsible for preparing court cases for rape victims who are assisted by the centre.

The centre has seen a rise of cases due to the growing informal settlements around its vicinity, "We cater for victims who come from Orange Farm, Lenasia, Eldorado Park, Ennerdale and from the several informal settlements located around us," said Sister Manishree Subban, who is the centre manager.



Manager for the Lenasia Thuthuzela Care Centre Ms Manishree Subban and Sister Maseko from the Department of Health during a meeting with the Commission for Gender Equality in Lenasia on Thursday.



Subban added that most rape victims come to the centre needing clothes and not having money to travel back home. "We have started receiving donated clothes from the community and churches, which we use to provide to women who have been raped," she said.

"We have a doctor who only comes on Tuesdays and Thursdays and have four forensic nurses," she added. CGE Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko expressed concern about the challenges, "Thuthuzela care centres are critical in helping the country to

deal with gender-based violence, it is important that they are sufficiently capacitated to discharge their mandate" she said. The Commission has given the centre fourteen days to complete a tool that will detail their challenges, before a report is produced.

CGE Addresses Traditional Leaders On Gender Rights In North West



CGE's Kelebogile Aplane and traditional leaders at a SAHRC dialogue held in the NW province.

The Commission for Gender Equality in the North West was invited by the South African Human Rights Commission to address gender rights and customary law practices at a dialogue themed 'Bridging the gap between human rights and traditional customs'. Ms Kelebogile Aplane, CGE's Legal Officer in the province told the gathering about the work done by the Commission in promoting and protecting gender rights and gender equality. "The purpose of the dialogue was to engage traditional leaders on human rights issues with the view of strengthening their capacity to

respond to prevailing human rights challenges in their communities" said CGE Provincial Manager in the North West, Joyce Khutsoane. "Ms Aplane emphasized the importance of education and information campaigns to educate the public on gender equality, equity, the rights of women and the LGBTQIA community, how the South African legal system operates, and to encourage women and the LGBTQIA+ to assert their rights by reporting unlawful discriminatory activities to their nearest police station and lodging complaints with the CGE" Khutsoane added.

UKZN Seeks CGE's Help To Enhance Policies On GBV And Sexual Harassment



By Nothemba Sonjica

The University of KwaZulu Natal has invited the Commission for Gender Equality to help the institution as it undertakes to enhance its GBV and Sexual Harassment Policies to toughen its fight against sexual violence on its premises and workplace. CGE Commissioner Prabashni Subrayan-Naidoo pointed out to the university's management that its sexual harassment policy is not in plain language, lacks crucial definitions and does not outline procedures to be followed when lodging a complaint. Janine Hicks, lecturer and member of

the GBV committee at the university, detailed to the CGE the challenges experienced in handling and processing GBV and sexual harassment investigations at the institution. She said UKZN has appointed a GBV coordinator to assist in this regard. The Commission is concerned about a recent GBV incident in which a student was allegedly raped after a security officer refused to accompany her to the student residence. "We have put systems in place for students to be protected on their way to nearby residences" UKZN said.