

# NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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## CGE Holds Accountability Session Following Sexual Violations In Parts of Eastern Cape



Representatives from state entities in the criminal justice system attended the CGE's accountability engagement in Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape to update on their work in addressing sexual violence cases in the area.

By Lungelo Mesh

Chairperson for the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale, led a Gender-Based Violence & Femicide accountability engagement at St Elizabeth Hospital Centre in Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape. CGE is collaborating with the O.R Tambo District Municipality to ensure that various state entities charged by the Constitution to protect citizens against crime and acts of GBVF, come forward to account and act against the prevailing scourge of sexual violations against elderly women and other vulnerable groups of women in parts of rural Eastern Cape. Areas falling under the O.R Tambo municipality have reported escalating incidents where vulnerable elderly women have been allegedly attacked and raped in their homes, in recent months. Addressing representatives from the National Prosecuting Authority, Department of Justice, South African Police Service, Sepanya-Mogale stressed the importance of urgent action in stopping the scourge. "We want to find out how you have been able to allocate resources to GBV victims and what

have been your challenges and successes," Advocate Sepanya-Mogale said in her opening remarks, "We are here to find a solution on how we can work together to ensure that our young girls and women are protected from GBV," she said. Mr. Khwalo Mathandabuza, Chairperson of GBVF combat committee in Lusikisiki, Mr Mathandabuza, said the area is a hotspot for GBVF cases in the province, "When the Minister of Police announced the 2023/24 second quarter GBV statistics, Lusikisiki was in the top five across the country and number one in the province" he said. "Lusikisiki is on position 5 on the country's sexual offenses list, with Mthatha at position 9, and both of them were position 1 and 2 in the provincial statistics on sexual offences" he added. The CGE's delegation included Commissioners Leigh-Ann van der Merwe and Adv Thando Gumede, the Commission's Eastern Cape Provincial Manager, Nceba Mrwebo. Mrs. Ntshanga, District Manager at the provincial Department of Health listed some of the challenges faced in the area, "We have a GBV problem in the Inyangeni area; children aged 0 to 3 are raped, and the cases are family related." CGE Chairperson said the accountability engagement was critical to ensure protection of rural women.

## CGE Commends Diepsloot Men On Starting Forum To Address Their Issues

By Keletso Rampeng

The CGE in partnership with the City of Johannesburg conducted a men's forum outreach at the Diepsloot Skills Centre, Johannesburg, which was aimed at empowering and equipping members of the Diepsloot Men's Forum with information on how to deal with a variety of issues, particularly their role in fighting gender-based violence.

CGE's Deputy Director for Public Education, Rabbuh Ralesemo commended the establishment of the Men's Forum, "We acknowledge and appreciate this development, and also call on you to recruit more men to this forum". The outreach engagement was part of a series of engagements conducted by the Commission in Gauteng to hold conversations and find solutions to prevailing gender inequality and gender-based violence in the province. "The



outreach was aimed at promoting gender equality for men and boys, and was crucial for Fostering a more inclusive and equitable community. By engaging men and boys, we challenge traditional gender norms and stereotypes," said CGE's Education Officer in Gauteng, Koketso Sekhu.



Committee Chairperson  
Nompandolo Mkhathshwa

## Higher Education Committee Credits CGE For GBV Work, Calls for DHET's Support

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation, commended the Commission for Gender Equality for its investigative work on gender inequality in institutions of higher learning. The committee further acknowledged the Commission's public media communication, research, and stakeholder engagement in educating the public about gender transformation. The CGE appeared before the Committee to provide an update on the monitoring work that has been done in achieving objectives of the country's Maputo Protocol.

In his remarks during CGE's presentation to the committee, Acting CEO Dr Dennis Matotoka said most universities are still struggling to ensure fair gender representation and protect their female workers and students on campuses. "Sexual harassment policies at most universities are outdated, there is little upward movement for women and campuses are not safe. Universities are places of education, but we see human violations happening on their campuses. There is a need for collaboration between universities and law enforcement authorities" he said. Matotoka told the committee that the CGE has been assessing the extent to which the country is compliant with some of the international instruments it has signed and ratified, including the Maputo Protocol.

Committee Chairperson Ms Nompandolo Mkhathshwa, said the CGE's investigations into higher education have raised gender issues that must be taken seriously by universities, "We want to get a report from the DHET on how far they are with implementing CGE recommendations and to hear how far universities are with updating their sexual harassment policies" she said.