

NEWSFLASH

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Promoting the Rights and Perspectives of Persons with Disabilities



LEFT: Representatives from the department of Public Works, South African Human Rights Commission, Department of Correctional Services, City of Tshwane Municipality, PANSalb and the National Youth Development Agency and CGE's Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko

By: Keletso Rampeng

Every year South Africa promotes the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development. The Commission For Gender Equality (CGE) held a 'Gender and Disability' stakeholder engagement session in Pretoria on Thursday under the theme, "Promoting the rights and Perspectives of Persons with Disabilities", to develop a set of recommen-

ndations on gender mainstreaming and transformation management as well as to contribute towards the internationally and agreed conventions, in a way that is inclusive to the needs of persons with disabilities. The department of Public Works, South African Human Rights Commission, Department of Correctional Services, City of Tshwane Municipality, PANSalb and the National Youth Development Agency also formed part of the

engagement. CGE's Commissioner Ohara Ngoma-Diseko set the tone and reminded the participants that "Our country commemorated disability month from 3 November to 3 December and is also commemorating 16 days of activism for no violence against women and children". "Persons with disabilities cannot be viewed in isolation without taking into consideration the intersections they associate with. These include; gender, sexual orientation and class in this context" she closed off by making a call to stakeholders present to form a strong bond and collaborate at raising awareness and advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, said Commissioner Ohara-Diseko.

Khutso Moyepao, CGE's province manager, addressed the issues faced by people with disabilities in terms of employment equity targets, stating that "15% of national departments set employment equity targets for people with disabilities but did not meet 7%." "65% of national departments did not set employment equity targets for people with disabilities, while 20% partially set employment equity targets in their planning for the upcoming financial year." Ms. Moyepao said. Ellen Hlatswayo of the department of public works spoke of some of the roles and responsibilities of the department in relation to persons with disabilities "We advocate for inclusion, support and monitor the implementation of employment equity plan, promote universal design through the DPW recruitment plans and training programs".

Watch Gender Space On Dumisa TV, DSTV CHANNEL 340, Thursdays at 18:00

Addressing Factors Contributing To The Scourge Of Gender-Based Violence

By: Keletso Rampeng and Lungelo Mesh

"Gender-Based Violence was classified as a pandemic in South Africa by our President, not only women and men are affected but it affects children and people surrounding them", these were the words of Commission For Gender Equality's (CGE) Commissioner Bongani Ngomane during a Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) information session hosted virtually by the CGE in collaboration with the department of traditional affairs last week.

The session was aimed at addressing the CGE's mandate and its works, the scourge of gender-based violence in south Africa and its cause such as patriarchy and bullying. Commissioner Ngomane addressed representatives from the Commission and department of traditional affairs on how GBV is costing the economy and how it is linked to drugs, "the spiral of GBV is linked to drugs, people who are on drugs end up doing things that are not good to their partners which involves GBV, we also need to fight the scourge of alcohol abuse as it is another factor that contributes to GBV", he said.

He further mentioned bullying as another factor contributing to GBV, "many people get bullied because of their gender, we have seen how the LGBTQIA+ Community gets bullied because of who they are, people are also bullied because of race, and we have made it a norm that in our meetings we have to speak the English language only and that is racial bullying", he said. "We need to educate communities on patriarchy," said Anna Maluleka from department of traditional affairs, adding that patriarchy is another type of violence and that communities are still practicing a traditional culture that has rules which violates women's rights. Javu Baloyi, CGE spokesperson, concluded the session by emphasizing that people in the workplace must stop abusing others. "Sometimes we must ask ourselves, what if it was my daughter or son experiencing this behavior in the workplace, we must act against GBV in the workplace and also in our communities," he said.



Challenges Faced By Women In Rural Area In Obtaining Their 50% Share Of The Immovable Property After Divorce

Opinion Piece by Thembi Madalane

In terms of the Matrimonial Property Act 88 of 1984, in a marriage in community of property, all assets and liabilities acquired before and during the marriage are shared equally between spouses. This means that both partners have an equal claim to the joint estate, inclusive of properties, investments, and debts.

When a marriage in community of property ends in divorce, the assets acquired during the marriage are divided between the spouses. The division of assets in a marriage in community of property is guided by the principle of equal sharing. Each spouse is entitled to 50% of the value of the assets. This includes all assets acquired by either spouse during the marri-

age regardless of individual contributions or efforts. Despite being entitled to such an equal share, women are still battling to obtain their 50% share of an immovable property situated in a rural area. This is because land in rural areas is under the custodianship of traditional leaders.

Most immovable properties in rural areas are registered in the husband's name as the head of the family which exacerbates gender discrimination in areas where patriarchy is prominent. The above-mentioned practice amounts to a violation of women's rights, especially their right to equality provided in section 9 (To read the full piece, visit www.cge.org.za - under Articles)

Thembi Madalane is a Legal Officer at the CGE

Encouraging Local Radio Stations To Cover A Wide Range Of Gender-Related Topics



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)'s Kwazulu-Natal office conducted a two-day 'Gender Development Workshop' at the Inkandla Community Radio Station, Kwazulu Natal. The workshop was attended by local-community journalists, on-air presenters, and show producers, with the goal(s) of educating and equipping local radio broadcasters with the necessary skills set on how to cover a wide range of gender-related topics, raising awareness on gender-based violence and its prevention, becoming more gender sensitive and neutral in their language, and finally, assisting in spreading the mandate and services of the Commission. Thamsanqa



Mncube, CGE's public education officer in KZN, stated that radio is the preferred communication channel for disseminating information on such important issues because "it is easier for radio to reach the non-literate marginalised sections of the population but also enable them to express their views freely." "Radio allows everyone to participate in democratic decision-making by giving voice to the voiceless," Mncube remarked at the session.

Engaging Rural Communities On Water and Sanitation



"The challenge of access to water and sanitation is a violation of the rights of women and children because they are the ones who are expected to fetch water, often in unsafe conditions," said CGE's Mpumalanga Provincial Manager, Moltah Mavuso, at a stakeholder engagement on access to water and sanitation held at the Mpangeni Tribal Council in Daantjie, Mbombela. The Tribal Council welcomed the Commission and other institutions and praised the CGE's efforts to educate rural communities. "We are concerned about women walking a long distance to fetch water from the truck water tank as it exposes them to danger and end up being raped", said Ms. Mavuso. "I am calling out women to express themselves about the challenges they face when it comes to access to water and sanitation in their area," she added.

Promoting the Rights of GBV Victims and Human Dignity

In 2021, Minister of Police, Bheki Cele identified Bergman and Khayelitsha communities in the Free State which falls within the greater area of Bloemspruit as one of the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide hotspot. Thus far, the area continues to record high numbers of domestic violence allegedly perpetuated by alcohol use and drugs as well as teenage pregnancy is reported to be on the rise. These are some of the reasons the Commission For Gender Equality in the Free State educated the community members in the Mangaung Metro Municipality on the CGE's mandate in monitoring state's response to GBV and other violent crimes.

CGE's Education Officer, Ms Boitumelo Zwane encouraged the community members to follow internal processes for grievance/ complaint reporting within justice cluster departments when they are not provided with gender sensitive, and victim centred services, "victims' rights, as well as their human dignity, must be protected in accordance with the Victims' Charter and the South African Constitution", she said. The community was further educated on how teenage pregnancy may have a direct link with statutory rape, "the latest GBV legislative amendments place duty on everyone to report cases of GBV especially where vulnerable persons are concerned such as children", she said. The outreaches were also supported by SAPS, DSD, SAB, NPA, DOJ and various civil society organisations.

Strengthening Working Relations With Faith Based Organisations

The Commission For Gender Equality (CGE) educated Faith Based Organizations in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga, on gender-based violence (GBV) at a women and men's dialogue hosted by the CGE, which aimed to strengthen working relationships with Faith Based Organizations and promote an open culture when dealing with GBV cases in church, last week. Ms Moltah Mavuso, CGE's Mpumalanga Provincial Manager, spoke on the issues that women encounter that end up compromising their dignity. She stated, "Most women have bad experiences in churches and keep quiet because of fear, stigma, and being judged." Others go through similar experiences due to poverty and desperation.

"As the CGE, we receive cases from Women Leaders from different churches complaining about the systems that are still oppressing and silencing them when they are faced with abuse and sexual harassment. Most of the time they are not protected because of the bureaucratic system in the church", said Ms. Mavuso. She further educated the participants on the role they should be playing in church to ensure that everyone is feeling safe when they are in the house of the Lord. "We need to acknowledge that GBV does not discriminate, it affects everybody whether you are a Christian or not, it affects both men and women", she said.

PUBLIC NOTICE!

The Commission For Gender Equality will be LIVE STREAMING its Public Health Investigative Hearings from the 12th -13th of December 2023 at 09h00. To Follow the Hearings visit our Facebook Page: Commission For Gender Equality and YouTube: @CommissionForGenderEquality