

# NEWSFLASH

A Commission for Gender Equality Newsletter

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To lodge a gender-related complaint with the CGE, email [Gender-enquiries@cge.org.za](mailto:Gender-enquiries@cge.org.za), or visit our website [www.cge.org.za](http://www.cge.org.za) to fill and submit the online complaint form.

## CGE Addresses Western Cape Student Dialogue on Gender Equality In 30 Years of Democracy



The Commission for Gender Equality's (CGE) Western Cape Provincial Manager, Mpelo Malebye addressed students from various higher education institutions including the Universities of Western Cape, Stellenbosch, Cape Peninsula and Cape Town on 30 years of democracy with specific focus on gender advocacy. The occasion took place at the Provincial Student Dialogue hosted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System at the Parliamentary Precinct.

Ms Malebye highlighted the establishment of the CGE as an important milestone in the country's fight for gender equality, "It is at this level that advocacy for equity yielded positive results and the CGE has

proven since its establishment that the power of the collective is undeniable", she said. Malebye added that the recent Coko judgment where CGE was the 3<sup>rd</sup> amicus highlights the importance of democracy, "The road to gender equality is long and has been an uphill battle since the CGE Act 39 of 1996 was promulgated. Various strategies, initiatives and collaborative endeavours have evidenced such important milestones" said Malebye. "In addition, it was underscored beyond the 30 years which we commemorate this year, it is important that students should remain active in building this democracy while deepening engagements to secure the future which we strive to see – a society free from all forms of oppression and emulating freedoms", said Malebye.

## Bridging the Gap to Build Working Relationships Between the CGE and SAPS in the North-West.

"The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) provides different types of assistance to the SAPS in the North-West Province" said CGE's Provincial Manager in the province, Ms Joyce Khutsoane while engaging SAPS officials. The stakeholder engagement hosted by the CGE was aimed at sharing and informing the SAPS in the North-West on the mandate of the CGE as well as finding ways to build, strengthen and maintain a good working relationship between the two state organs.

In attendance were North-West SAPS Provincial Commissioner, Major-General Kwena and Brigadier T Ngutshani who both agreed that an amicable working relationship needs to be created to shape the future providing the CGE with an opportunity to its programmes with the different districts in the province. CGE's Legal officer in the province further outlined some of the challenges to the SAPS and further made recommendations on how they can be dealt with in the future.

## THE COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY SAYS:

### Protecting And Promoting The Rights Of The LGBTQIA+ Community

Protecting and promoting the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community is important for society. Gender marginalisation and violence directed at the LGBTQIA+ community is injustice. The Equality Clause of the Constitution outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation. It guarantees the inclusion of dignity, protection, and freedom that people of all genders and sexual orientations must enjoy. CGE is committed to advocating for inclusive laws, policies, safe spaces, and sensitisation that must protect the rights of all genders. Social exclusion, stigmatisation, and social attitudes that constitute a form of symbolic violence, as well as actual attacks, must end.

## CGE Gets Ready To Join Other Observers In The General Elections



Chapter 9 institutions were created to protect, support and guard our democracy. Free and fair elections are a crucial part of a thriving and dynamic democracy, and to ensure this the CGE has pledged to monitor the upcoming elections. Gender equality within the electoral process is often overlooked and this leaves gaps and challenges in the system that should be addressed.

On 19 April 2024, Commissioner Dibeela Mothupi, supported by the CGE's Free State provincial office, attended the occasion for the pledge and signing of the Electoral code of conduct in the Free State. As part of the process, the delegation invited observed representatives from each political party on the ballot pledge to upholding the code of conduct as well as undersign the code of conduct. Notably the code of conduct stipulates that all parties and candidates must speak out

against political violence and threats against other parties, the Electoral Commission, member of the public and the media. In 2015 the UNDP and UN Women published an article on gender mainstreaming in the electoral system. As part of the analysis the article highlights the existing gender inequalities in the electoral process as well as mechanisms to address these inequalities. One of the notable challenges in the South African political climate is outbreaks of violence and safety within the electoral process. As a stakeholder within the election process and a chapter 9 institution, the CGE will ensure that its observation of the upcoming elections is administered within the framework of the IEC, but also that the entrenched constitutional values around gender equality and non-discrimination are upheld.