



Public Education and Information Message on Informal Economies and Empowered Women.

As we continue to celebrate Women's Month, we honour the countless women in the informal economy whose strength, resilience, and determination continue to shape our communities and drive economic progress. These women are more than traders, entrepreneurs, and service providers. They are providers, innovators, caregivers, and community builders whose contributions sustain households and strengthen local economies. Across South Africa, women in the informal economy work tirelessly to create opportunities where few exist. They operate businesses from markets, streets, homes, and community spaces, often overcoming significant challenges to provide for their families and contribute to economic growth. Despite their vital role, many continue to face barriers such as limited access to funding, inadequate trading infrastructure, exclusion from economic opportunities, digital inequality, and safety concerns. The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) recognises that women's economic empowerment is fundamental to achieving gender equality. As a constitutional institution mandated to promote, protect, and advance gender equality, the CGE continues to advocate for the removal of barriers that hinder women's full participation in the economy. Through research, public education, legal interventions, policy advocacy, and oversight, the Commission works to ensure that women have equitable access to opportunities, resources, decision-making spaces, and economic justice. As we commemorate Women's Month, let us reaffirm our commitment to creating an enabling environment where women in the informal economy are recognised, respected, and supported. Let us work together to build a future where every woman has access to the opportunities, resources, and support she needs to realise her full potential. For more information on the CGE, follow us on X: @CGE_ZA, Instagram: @cgelive, and Facebook: Commission for Gender Equality.

Script developed by Koketso Sekhu (Gauteng Education Officer) and Mihle Mihle Zwane (KZN PEI Intern)

Script reviewed by:



25 August 2026

Rabbuh Raletsemo

Deputy Director: PEI

Approved by:



27/08/2026

Philisiwe Gabela

Head of Department: PEI