



Commission for Gender Equality
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

Annual Performance Plan (APP) and Budget (2020/2021) Virtual Presentation to the Portfolio Committee; Parliament

Opening Remarks by Chairperson – Tamara Mathebula

Date: 25 May 2020 between 10.00am – 12.00pm

Attention: The Honourable Chairperson, The Honourable Whip and The Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee

Introduction

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Whip and Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. On behalf of the Commission, I send the Honourable Chairperson and the members greetings, wishing you all safe and healthy living during these trying times brought by the COVID-19 epidemic and the subsequent lockdown.

I am accompanied by Commissioners and the Secretariat. Introductions...

We would like to extend our appreciation for being invited to come and present to the Portfolio Committee the Commission's Strategic Plan (2019-2024), the Annual Performance Plan and the budget that has been proposed for the current financial year 2020/2021. Both the APP and the budget has been presented to various CGE's oversight Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation (SPME) Committee, the Finance Committee (FINCOM) and subsequently approved by Plenary on the 26 March 2020.

The invite comes at a time when we are all decrying the disturbingly high levels of human rights violation, gender-based violence, domestic violence, femicide and abduction, killing of innocent women (young and old) including children in our country. The coronavirus crisis is unprecedented with evidence of deepening gender inequalities, increasing domestic and gender-based violence and reversing the gains. The President, the Chair of the Portfolio Committee and the Commission have made several statements and announcements in response - calling for innovative ways of addressing the scourge.

Honourable Chairperson, today we are presenting our 5-year strategic Plan, annual plans and budget before you in accordance to the CGE Act number 39 of 1996 (as amended), section 15, the Commission may, subject to the provisions of subsection (2), and the Commissioner's handbook, the Commission shall report to the President or Parliament at least once every year on its planned activities and the achievement of its objectives, and the President shall cause such report to be tabled promptly in Parliament, provided that the Commission may at any time submit any other report to the President and Parliament. The requirements for reporting and accountability are also in line with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999). Further, this is in accordance to the King 111 and King IV's 17 principles on sound Corporate Governance. The King IV report further casts a focused lens on balancing performance evaluation towards achieving the desired good governance outcomes, therefore articulating the benefits of good corporate governance which the Commission aspires to attain.

By way of introduction, the Commission for Gender Equality is an independent statutory body created under Chapter 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of South African Act 108 of 1996 of the Constitution. The CGE has a constitutional mandate to promote, protect and monitor Gender Equality in the country. The Constitution states that CGE has the power, as regulated by National Legislation to monitor, investigate, research, educate, lobby, advice, and report to Parliament through this Committee on issues concerning gender equality.

Further the Commission for Gender Equality Act No. 39 of 1996 – as amended gives the Commission powers to evaluate policies and practices of organs of state at all levels, statutory bodies and functionaries, private sector and institutions to promote gender equality and make any recommendation that CGE deem necessary.

The Commission is mandated to monitor the implementation of not only the national but regional and international instruments signed or acceded to and ratified by South Africa that impact directly or indirectly to gender equality. These include but not limited to the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women shortly known as CEDAW, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals -17 more focus on Goal 3– healthy lives and wellbeing and Goal 5 - equality and empowerment, AU Agenda 2063 on health and other regional protocols.

The Commission aims to transform the society and institutions by investigating complaints, educating the public, advocate for the promotion and attainment of gender equality.

Honourable Chairperson, the Annual Performance Plan presented here this morning is based on the Commission's long-term strategy (5–year) Strategic Plan (2019/2024), that was developed in 2018 and a revised in 2019. So, it is NOT a new strategic plan. its long-term vision was inspired by the 20-year review of the work and the contribution made in fulfilling the Commission's mandate of strengthening democracy through the creation of an enabling and empowering environment for both women and men, girls and boys thus contributing to gender equality. To fulfil this mandate, the Commission endeavours to strength and leverage its strategic partnerships, towards increasing the reach of our programmes through nationwide communication and using our legislative mandate to challenge barriers and behaviours in society that undermine the achievement of gender equality.

The multi-annual strategic plan consists of **four (4) Strategic Objectives** which are goal oriented, outlined as, to:

- **Advance an enabling legislative environment for gender equality.**
- **Promote and protect gender equality through public awareness, education, investigation and litigation**
- **Monitor and evaluate issues that undermine the attainment of gender equality**
- **Build an efficient organisation that promote and protect gender equality.**

This strategic plan (2019-2024) clearly outlines how the Commission for Gender Equality is a catalyst for the attainment of gender equality. It demonstrates alignment of its priorities and programmes to be achieved over time.

{CEO will provide a substantive information on how the Commission has proposed programmatic interventions which are aligned to the four broad categories of the strategic objectives}.

In terms of budget allocation, the CGE's approved total budget is R89.9 million per annum. Given the broad mandate of the Commission, the overall budget allocation i-remains inadequate for the Commission to fulfil its mandate. CGE cannot adequately cover for human resources, existing and emerging needs and programmatic interventions as well as Support Services required in all nine (9) Provinces. In terms of the 2013 adjusted estimates of national Expenditure vote 8 which included Women , Children and Persons with Disabilities receives the budget of R198,312 million of which R63 086 million is transferred and subsidies the CGE allocation. This issue speaks to the Funding model of gender equality organizations and interventions in the country.

{CFO will elaborate on the budget and allocations in accordance to the 3 categories which are allocations to Commissioner's, Corporate Services and Core Service Delivery and how these have been allocated in accordance to the 4 Strategic Objectives}.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson and Honourable Members, the Commission will continue to oppose practices that go against the founding values of the Constitution which are:

- Human dignity, Achievement of equality, advancement of human rights and freedom,
- non racialism, non-sexism,
- Supremacy of the Constitution and the Rule of Law

On behalf of the Commission and staff, I thank you and hope we will have a constructive engagement on the CGE's plans and proposed response to substantive gender quality issues.

I Thank you once more for the opportunity.