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| **MEDIA STATEMENT** **COMMITTEE ON WOMEN ,YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ASKS CGE TO SUBMIT ALL OUTSTANDING REPORTS WITHIN TWO WEEKS** **Parliament, Sunday, 15 August 2021 –** The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) appeared before the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities this week on issues pertaining to operational matters of concern within the CGE, the CGE’s response to Commissioner Botha’s matter and on the City Press article on CGE which was published on 8 August 2021. The CGE Chairperson, Ms Tamara Mathebula, told the committee that the claims made in the article that appeared in the City Press last Sunday headlined “CGE as a mess” were devoid of truth and unfortunate. She distanced the entity from the article and reported that they have written to the City Press expressing their disappointment in the way the commission was portrayed and why the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, and its Chairperson were in the article. In response to the unfortunate article, Ms Mathebula told the committee that a crisis communication action plan was subsequently developed that will deal with the article and the misleading story it carried about the CGE, the committee and the committee Chairperson. Furthermore, she said the CGE has requested a right to reply on the article and their reply article is hopefully going to be published in the City Press’ tomorrow edition. Ms Ncube-Ndaba asked the CGE to explain to the committee the basis on which claims of interference and insults by the committee on the entity that are highlighted, were made in the article if they exist. She told the CGE that the committee is driven by its constitutional mandate that includes provision of assistance to the Institutions Supporting Democracy (ISDs) to ensure, among other things, their independence, impartiality, dignity and effectiveness. “We are only driven by that mandatory involvement which is ridiculously characterised as interference in that shameful article,” said Ms Ncuebe-Ndaba. Ms Ncube-Ndaba explained the oversight role of the committee on the department and its entities which include the CGE and told the entity’s delegation that the committee will never be deterred in carrying out its constitutional mandate over the entity. “Nothing can stop us from demanding accountability from the entity including unfavourable questions as we perform our oversight responsibility. As long as you use taxpayers’ money, we will ask questions that make you uncomfortable and you will account on the money that has been appropriated in order to perform your duties as commissioners,” emphasised Ms Ncube-Ndaba. Regarding the matter of the alleged tensions between the CEO and the commissioners, Ms Ncebe-Ndaba asked the CGE to investigate the matter and report back to the committee. On other matters, although the commissioners and the CEO were afforded an opportunity to provide clarity on numerous matters of concern - the committee was not satisfied with the responses and wanted more details in a written report. The committee has told the CGE to submit written reports on all the outstanding matters within two weeks. The matters include, the matter pertaining to Commissioner Botha as the committee expressed its unhappiness at what had transpired and the gross discrimination which is recorded in the clip. Ms Ncube-Ndaba told the CGE to speedily resolve the matter as the Speaker of the National Assembly has asked the committee to  consider and resolve the matter. The committee resolved to embark on an oversight visit to the CGE headquarters at an unspecified date. **ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, MS NONNHLANHLA NCUBE-NDABA** For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee’s Media Officer:Name: Yoliswa LanduParliamentary Communication ServicesCell: 081 497 4694E-mail: ylandu@parliament.gov.za     |

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