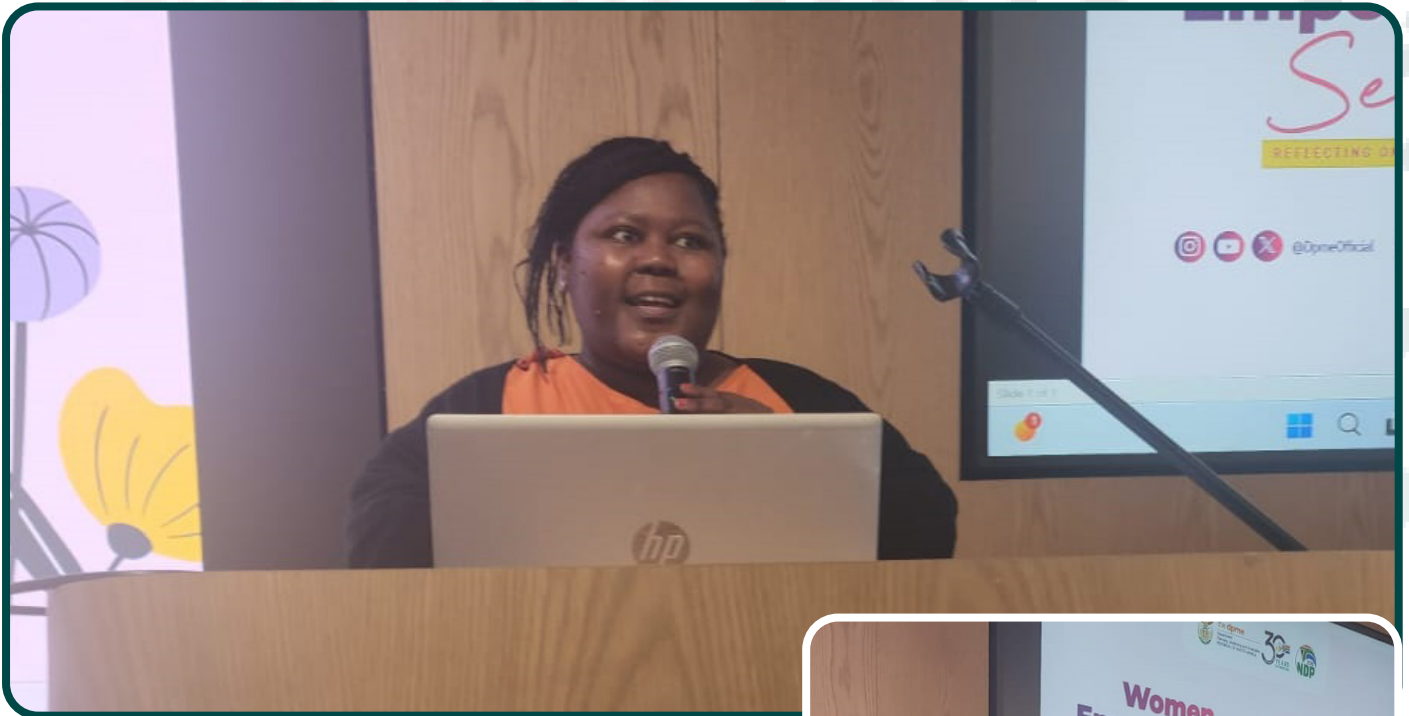


# PSC TODAY

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SESSION



The Deputy Chairperson of the Public Service Commission (PSC), Ms Zukiswa Mqolomba participated at a Women Empowerment Session arranged by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) on Thursday, 03 October 2024. The Director-General of the Department of Tourism, Mr Victor Tharage, female employees of the DPME and Commissioner Nancy Ngwenya were also in attendance.

In her address to the women, the Deputy Chairperson acknowledged the progress that Government's has made in relation to the empowerment of Women. She said: **"Of the 120 000 members of the Senior Management Service (SMS) employed in the Public Service, about 47% of the Senior Managers are women"**. She bemoaned the fact that the Public Service has **"not yet reached our goal of achieving 50% representation of women at the Senior Management level"**.

Ms Mqolomba called for the affirmation of Women's values and contributions at the workplace.



## PROFESSOR FIKENI ADDRESSES THE 2024 HETL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN GQEBERHA

On Wednesday, 02 October 2024, The Chairperson of the PSC, Professor Somadoda Fikeni delivered a keynote address during the opening of the 2024 Higher Education Teaching and Learning (HTEL) Association Conference held at Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape. The Conference is held under the theme: ***“Universities as change agents in society: imagining social innovation for sustainable futures”***.

The HTEL Association Conference is an annual gathering of professionals and thought leaders from around the world to dialogue, network and collaborate on issues relevant to teaching and learning in higher education. The conference will end on Friday, 04 October 2024.

## PSC DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON PARTICIPATES AT THE GOOD GOVERNANCE AFRICA 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, 02 October 2024, the Deputy Chairperson of the PSC, Ms Zukiswa Mqolomba participated in a panel discussion during the 10-year Anniversary celebration of the Good Governance Africa held in Melrose Arch, Johannesburg. The topic for the discussion was, ***“Advancing Good Governance in Africa: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities”***.

The Deputy Chairperson mentioned that the vision of the PSC is to create a professional, capable, and responsive public service that promotes good governance, transparency and accountability. ***“This vision reflects a commitment to fostering a public administration that effectively serves the needs of citizens and contributes to the overall development of the nation”***, said Ms Mqolomba.

The Deputy Chairperson further reiterated the importance of realizing the vision and mission of the PSC. ***“In the wake of corruption and governance failures, restoring public trust in government institution is paramount. The PSC’s commitment to promoting transparency and accountability can help rebuild confidence among citizens. By realizing its mission, the PSC can demonstrate that the public service is dedicated to ethical conduct and responsive governance”***, said Ms Mqolomba.

***“As we navigate the complexities of the current environment, the PSC’s role in shaping a responsive and accountable public service has never been more important”***, concluded Ms Mqolomba.





## COMMISSIONER BACUS INTERVIEWED BY LOTUS FM

On Tuesday, 01 October 2024, Commissioner Yasmin Bacus was interviewed on LOTUS FM's evening show called Talk @ 7, hosted by Zakia Ahmed Siddiqui at the SABC studio in Durban. The show focused on the crime situation in the country and why communities have developed a **"numbness"** to crime by turning a blind eye to criminal networks and activities within their communities, personal and professional spaces.

The show also hosted Adele from Gun Free South Africa, who analysed the link between the high rate of murder by guns in South Africa as well as the reason and sources for the proliferation of illegal firearms.

Listeners called in to express their fears for not reporting crime, citing corrupt police officers who usually work with criminals within their communities as well as a lack of trust in the criminal justice system. Some of the listeners expressed the need for greater cooperation between structures such as the Sector Policing, Neighbourhood Watches and Community Police Forums.

Much of the discussions focused on the structural inequalities engendered by apartheid, which has given rise to poverty, inequality, as well as lack of employment for young people including graduates who often resort to crime for survival. Young people are also targeted by criminal networks.

Cultural and Social factors in South Africa have deeply entrenched issues related to gender-based violence. **"We have social norms that sometimes perpetuate the patriarchal attitudes and toxic masculinity, which plays a role in the normalization of violence, particularly towards women and children"**, said Commissioner Bacus.

Many more complex factors were discussed and unraveled between the guests and listeners and the interactive contributions showed that not everyone is apathetic about crime.

residents in the community to invest in resourcing the community policing structures and help establish CCTV Cameras and other security measures that would beef up security in the communities, particularly the disadvantaged and rural areas where there are no community resources to fight crime. **"Public and private partnerships are key to overcoming crime and taking back control of the neighborhoods"**.

Commissioner Bacus also made reference to the great work that is being done by the South Africa Police Service in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) under the leadership of Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi, who has put in major crime busting operations in the province, which are led by his intelligence structures. **"He is one of the finest Provincial Commissioners that the KZN province has had and he has made an impact in breaking down illegal networks as well as dealing with undocumented and illegal foreign immigrants who have taken control of derelict buildings in the province. The Provincial Commissioner works with an integrated approach coordinating operations with provincial and municipal law enforcement structures and leadership"**.



Commissioner Bacus urged the private sector and retail businesses that benefit from the patronage of

Commissioner Bacus and Adele agreed that firearm legislation and policies need to be reviewed in order to close gaps that criminals explore and also look at the modernization of the digital processes of the Firearms Registry and Docket Management Systems so that the manipulation of the system can be eliminated through proper advanced technological controls.

