



Commission On Gender Equality

MEDIA STATEMENT

CGE AND PARTNERS MEET TAXI ASSOCIATION ON THE MINI-SKIRT MATTER

Johannesburg, March 07 2008 – Today the South African National Association (SANTACO) honoured a request by the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE), along with the Women’s Progressive Movement (WPM), to meet and discuss the national ire raised by the attack on a female commuter for wearing a miniskirt recently at the Noord Street taxi rank in Johannesburg.

The senior officials of SANTACO present, led by Secretary-General Phillip Taaibosch, unequivocally distanced their institution from the incident that sparked national outcry and mobilised the public to demand the respect of women’s rights.

Despite the cordial discussion, the CGE and its partners, present and not, took the taxi association on whether it has in place policies that ensure protection of all who work and use the services of this transport industry.

“We appreciate that your task is not an easy one,” asserted Dr Teboho Maitse, the CGE’s commissioner coordinating monitoring of this specific task. “But we are going to hold accountable for redress of the

Several matters were agreed to at the meeting, namely:

- SANTACO is to live up to its promise to publicly apologise to the victim personally - and to all women in general
- SANTACO will engage with the association of the route on which the victim of the attack was riding at the time of the incident
- A recently-launched pledge should be amended to pronounce on gender sensitivity
- The CGE will support transformation at SANTACO by running a series of workshops for its member operators, drivers and other allied workers
- SANTACO will supply the CGE with existing policy documents relating to customer care and upholding of gender right, to which the CGE can give necessary input for development ;
- The CGE and its partners, including the SA Human Rights Commission, will monitor progress towards transformation

Having strongly deplored the assault, SANTACO made an undertaking to make sure that, despite behavioural and attitudinal challenges, its current endeavours do not end up being just talkshop, but concerted efforts to put the taxi industry in order.

The discussions will continue, and the CGE will continue working with other players, such as MECs of transport, safety and security, to ensure redress and transformation in the taxi industry.

Issued on behalf of CGE and Partners

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