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MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 JUNE 2026, PRETORIA

NATIONAL TASK TEAM ON SOGIESC MATTERS CHARTS PROGRESS ON HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION AND WELCOMES LANDMARK EQUALITY COURT JUDGMENT

The National Task Team (NTT) on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) and Human Rights Matters held its Quarter 1 virtual NTT meeting on 23 June 2026.

The NTT meeting was chaired by Ms Mabatho Molokomme, the Director for Human Rights and Constitutional Institutions Support, in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

The focus of the meeting was to review critical national and provincial mechanisms and to chart a clear direction for the year ahead, to systemically protect, promote and advance LGBTQIA+ and human rights across South Africa.

The meeting served as an important platform for multi-sectoral oversight, bringing together government departments, Chapter 9 institutions, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to solidify legal protections, evaluate active case metrics, and address grassroots implementation strategies.

1. Landmark victory against hate speech: The Ngizwe Mchunu judgment in the Equality Court

A key focal point of the meeting was the historic hate speech judgment delivered on 19 June 2026 by the Gauteng High Court, sitting as an Equality Court. The case was against cultural leader, traditional healer and online content creator, Mr Ngizwe Mchunu.

The Court found Mr Mchunu's wide-ranging online statements - which included severe derogatory slurs against gay and lesbian persons and organising anti-LGBTQIA+ marches or demonstrations - guilty of hate speech, harassment, and unfair discrimination against gay, lesbian and transgender people, in contravention of the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination, 2000 (Act 4 of 2000).

Mchunu was ordered to pay R250,000 in damages to Trans Hope and the Hate Crimes Working Group, to issue an unconditional public apology to gay, lesbian and transgender people on his Facebook page, and to undergo 20 hours of human rights sensitization training to be conducted by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) or an institution nominated by it.

Mr Mchunu is also permanently prohibited from publishing any further material on any online platform that discriminates against any LGBTQIA+ persons or communities.

He is also permanently prohibited from instigating, organising or participating in any march or demonstration that discriminates against any LGBTQIA+ persons or communities.

The NTT commends and welcomes this judgment as a victory in advancing the rights of people of diverse SOGIESC. Mr Mchunu's compliance with the court order will also be closely monitored.

2. Legislative and operational milestones

The South African Police Services' (SAPS) reported on their specialized SOGIESC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) which has been successfully consolidated. The document is currently awaiting final signature from the Divisional Commissioner before being rolled out to police stations nationwide to ensure the dignified, human-rights-based treatment of SOGIESC-sector victims.

3. National case tracking and the Rapid Response Team

The NTT Secretariat tabled a comprehensive national case analysis for June 2026, revealing 34 active cases currently tracked on the national LGBTQ hate crimes register. Of these, 19 remain under active police investigation, and 15 are on the court roll.

Alarmingly, murder accounts for the highest typology with 17 cases, followed by 5 cases of rape. Regional data indicates that Gauteng and the Eastern Cape remain the most volatile areas, carrying 10 active cases each.

To systematically address civil human rights violations - such as institutional discrimination and equality court matters, the NTT finalised plans to launch a parallel Civil Cases Register. This initiative will leverage data from Chapter 9 Institutions and partner civil society organisations to enhance legal tracking and intersectional oversight. The data emanating from these structures continues to inform the development of law, policy, practice and interventions towards the advancement of equality for all.

4. Strengthening grassroots governance and funding

Financial resources, while limited, have been committed to assist Provincial Task Teams to execute their mandate. Furthermore, virtual capacity-building workshops for Provincial Task Teams are scheduled for the next quarter to ensure full operational alignment with the *National Intervention Strategy on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression and Sex Characteristics 2023-2027*.

5. Conclusion

As the implementation cycle of the current *National Intervention Strategy* moves closer toward its final reporting phases to Cabinet, there is no room for complacency. The institutional foundations have been updated, through consolidated SAPS operating guidelines, defined budget channels, and enhanced multi-stakeholder tracking systems.

The collective mandate seeks to shift to vigilant implementation, ensuring that the progressive promises of our Constitution translate into tangible, daily protection for every vulnerable community across South Africa.

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