MEDIA ADVISORY: FOUR CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES HOST A CONFERENCE ON WOMEN TRADITIONAL LEADERS, LAND, CUSTOMARY GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Attention: Editors and Reporters

Date: 19 November 2026

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Rights Commission), and the Public Protector of South Africa (PPSA) will host a national conference on Women Traditional Leaders: Land, Customary Governance and Constitutional Transformation.

Despite South Africa's constitutional foundation of human dignity, equality, freedom, and democratic participation, significant challenges regarding communal land governance, customary authority, and the meaningful participation of women within traditional leadership systems remain. Women continue to be systematically discriminated.

As such, the four constitutional bodies will bring together women traditional leaders, government departments, Chapter 9 institutions, academia, and civil society to develop evidence-based policy recommendations on customary governance, communal land governance and constitutional democracy.

In addition, the conference will help to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders to promote indigenous knowledge systems and women's leadership. The conference will also develop a Declaration Framework for a national policy paper for legislative and policy recommendations.

The medium- term outcome will be the development of evidence-based paper on the legal, policy and institutional reforms necessary to strengthen rights protection as well as an implementation roadmap.

The conference will be held as follows:

Venue: Birchwood Hotel & Conference Centre, Boksburg

Dated: 24 – 25 November 2026

Times: 08:00 daily

RSVP: Members of the public wishing to attend the conference physically should send rsvp to pmolekoa@sahrc.org.za by no later than Monday 23 November 2026 at 10:00.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the conference.

ENDS

Jointly issued by the four constitutional bodies

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