

PRESS RELEASE

NCPE's reactions to Budget 2011

In reaction to the Budget Speech 2011 presented in Parliament on Monday 25th October, NCPE commends the government's statement to continue working on issues related to equality in relation to employment, specifically relating to family-friendly measures, protection of individuals who make use of family-friendly measures and return to the place of work.

Regarding the government's aim to create more jobs, it must be ensured that procedures, giving of grants and related matters, are gender and equality mainstreamed to enhance equality for the beneficiaries of such schemes. However, NCPE appreciates the need for such measures and agrees with their being given importance in the national budget.

NCPE also agrees with the continuing investment in education and training, health, pensions, social framework and capital investment. With reference to the continuous change in the nature of work as mentioned in the Budget Speech, NCPE states that it is a very good opportunity to retrain people returning to work after having made use of family-friendly measures. NCPE reiterates that the statement that enterprises '*require Flexible workers*' is one of the reasons why more emphasis needs to be made on the adoption and proper implementation of work-life balance measures and flexibility at the place of work. Hence, the rebuilding of three childcare centres is a positive step towards real access to family-friendly measures.

NCPE approves of the fact that the one year tax credit being given to women who are returning to the labour market will continue this year. The introduction of the 15% pro-rata contribution will also entice more women to engage in the formal economy which benefits them as well as society, especially in the long-term.

NCPE also approves of the fact that government will not tolerate discrimination against foreign workers.

NCPE also commends the fact that, as stated in the Budget Speech, the battle against cancer is a priority issue for the government, and also the fact that there will be an extension of screening services after the success of the breast screening centre.

Tuesday 2nd November, 2010