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Gender balance calls get louder

THE Financial and Fiscal Commission has complained about the gender balance of its commissioners, saying new appointments by the Presidency have seen them "regress".

The FFC is the second organisation to grapple with gender diversity in the past month, after Parliament's home affairs committee sent a short list of candidates for a commissioner vacancy there back to the Presidency, saying the list was not diverse enough.

The acting CEO of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, Bongani Khumalo, said the "gains" towards gender equity had been "reversed" when three women commissioners left and were replaced by two men and a woman.

"We now have just one female out of eight commissioners, but it is out of our control as appointments are made by the president," he said.

"We were doing very well (in terms of gender) and then we regressed."

The commission had also "finally" appointed its first woman into the executive committee – commission secretary Ansuyah Maharaj Dowra.

Khumalo said: "We took a deliberate decision that for any vacancy the first preference would go to a female or disabled candidates."

Acting chair of the committee, David van Rooyen, said they would take the matter up with the Presidency.

ANC committee member Thandi Tobias meanwhile questioned the work environment, saying "is it so bad that women don't want to be part of it?"

The Presidency did not respond to questions.