



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

16 September 2019

GDE disappointed by vandalism at Rietondale High School

Gauteng MEC for Education Mr Panyaza Lesufi has expressed outrage and condemned acts of vandalism that took place at Rietondale High School yesterday (Sunday). The school was recently renamed from Hoërskool Hendrik Verwoerd to Rietondale High School.

According to preliminary reports received by the department, it is alleged that criminals defaced the main gate of the school and vandalised sections of the building. The preliminary report reveals the following damages:

- The Lapa was vandalised
- All taps and shower heads that were recently installed in the new bathrooms were stolen.

Said MEC Lesufi: “We are appalled and shocked by this behaviour. We call on the police to do everything in their power to apprehend these faceless individuals. This act against the school is a violation of a fundamental human right and undermines our transformation agenda. This act will not deter us from our agenda of transforming the education system. Vandalism targeted at our schools requires the urgent attention of all structures of civil society and our partners in the education sector”.

Added MEC Lesufi: “We strongly condemn any acts of criminality and the disruption of schooling, which seek to undermine the dignity of both learners and educators. We appeal to members of the community to safeguard the schools and provide information that could lead to the arrest of these criminals”.

The fight against racism and hate crimes should be intensified as we continue the journey of building a non-racial, non-sexist and united democratic South Africa.

The Department has dispatched a team from the district office to support the school. GDE is also working closely with law enforcement agencies to ensure that the perpetrators of this crime are brought to book.

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Spokesperson, Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education

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