



**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**To: All Media**

**Att: News Editors**

**For immediate release**

**20 October 2022**

**MEC Chiloane concerned about learner ill-discipline at schools**

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane is concerned about cases related to ill-discipline among learners at Gauteng schools, that were reported during the week.

On Wednesday, 20 October 2022, Altmont Technical High School in Soweto reported that a grade 8 boy learner was stabbed on the neck by a grade 9 boy learner outside the school premises. The injured learner was rushed to a nearby clinic and was later transferred to a hospital to receive further medical attention.

Fortunately, the learner was discharged at midnight and is currently recovering at home. The perpetrator faces suspension and other pending disciplinary processes following this unlawful act.

Also on Wednesday, Wendywood High School in Sandton reported that a group of Grade 12 learners skipped school to go on a drinking spree at a nearby park. Thereafter, these learners came to school in the afternoon and started a fight with a group of Grade 10 and 11 learners.

Subsequently, seven Grade 12 learners were taken into custody by Sandton Police officials following this incident. They have since been released on R 1 000

bail each, and they also face suspension and further disciplinary action for their unruly behaviour.

On the same day, it was reported that a group of parents from T M Lethlake Secondary School in Bekkersdal forcefully locked the gates of the school and prevented learners from attending class. These parents state that they were protesting for issues that include the appointment of a new principal, disciplinary action to be taken against educators who are allegedly not teaching learners, and the implementation of the school's code of conduct against learner misconduct at the school.

Our District officials held a meeting with the parents, where they were assured that these issues will be investigated and attended to accordingly. An administrator has been deployed to ensure that learning and teaching resumes at the school today.

Lastly, on Thursday, 13 October 2022, a grade 9 girl learner from Pretoria Central High School was assaulted by 5 girl learners during school hours on school premises. The assault was with an intent to do grievous bodily harm as part of the learner's hair was removed from her scalp, resulting to her head having bruises and swelling.

The perpetrating learners were identified and suspended, they await a disciplinary hearing for their actions.

Our psychosocial support team has been dispatched to all affected schools to offer necessary support.

"We strongly condemn acts of ill-discipline and unruly behaviour by learners at our schools. We must remind all learners, parents and communities at large, that our schools are institutions of learning and teaching. Therefore, we appeal that they be treated as such. Any form of ill-discipline and unruly behaviour will be met with disciplinary action, and lawful action if necessary," said MEC Chiloane.

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

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**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education**