



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**To: All Media
Att: News Editors
For immediate release**

22 October 2022

MEC CHILOANE SADDENED BY THREE LEARNER DEATHS

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane is saddened by three learner deaths that were reported this weekend.

Ecaleni LSEN learner passes away after health complications

An eight-year-old boy learner from Ecaleni Learners with Special Needs School in Tembisa passed away on Friday, 21 October 2022, after reportedly falling unconscious in a scholar transport bus a week prior to his death.

Reports allege that on Friday, 14 October, while being transported home, the learner suddenly fell unconscious and was bleeding from the mouth. The transport driver applied first aid on the learner and took him home to receive further care.

However, his condition worsened while at home and he was hospitalised on Wednesday, 16 October. Unfortunately, the department was informed that the child has passed away on Friday, 21 October 2022.

Bopasenatla Secondary learner passes away in transit

Also on Friday, 21 October, Bopasenatla Secondary School in Soweto reported that a grade 10 girl learner passed on whilst on her way home from school.

According to information at our disposal, learners notified the transport driver of a learner who was vomiting and foaming from the mouth. The driver then went off his drop-off route course to rush the learner to a nearby clinic. Unfortunately, the child was declared dead on arrival.

Police are investigating circumstances surrounding this incident.

Buhlebuzile Secondary learner passes away at school

Lastly, Buhlebuzile Secondary School in Thokoza reported that a grade 10 girl learner passed away at school on Thursday, 20 October 2022, after collapsing in class.

Police are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding this incident.

MEC Chiloane has recommended that the department must appoint an independent law firm to investigate circumstances surrounding the death of the grade 10 girl learner. This investigation will assist the department to take decisive action accordingly.

Our psychosocial support team will be dispatched at each of these schools to provide counselling to those affected by these unfortunate incidents. This support will also be extended to the affected families of the deceased learners.

“We are deeply saddened to have received these reports of the passing of our learners. Our sincerest condolences goes out to the families of our beloved learners and the school communities for their loss,” said MEC Chiloane.

MEC Chiloane will Monday, 24 October 2022 visit all affected schools and families of the deceased learners.

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

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