



MEDIA STATEMENT

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

10 October 2023

MEC CHILOANE OUTLINES OPERATION KGUTLA MOLAO AT SIZWE HIGH SCHOOL

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane continued the implementation of Operation Kgutla Molao on Tuesday, 10 October 2023, by engaging with principals, School Governing Body (SGB) members, and relevant stakeholders at Sizwe High School in Elandsfontein.

Operation Kgutla Molao is a safety strategy that was recently launched by MEC Chiloane in reaction to reports of safety concerns at Gauteng schools. The strategy is one of the comprehensive interventions outlined within the Gauteng School Safety Action Plan, aimed at reducing incidents of violence, bullying, suicide, substance abuse, and sexual harassment at schools. The Department aims to achieve this by working together with the police, government departments, members of the community, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Sizwe High School is one of 75 prioritised schools within a list of 245 schools in the province that have been identified as high-risk. The Department highlights prioritised high-risk schools using the following factors:

- Criminal acts against learners, educators, school management, school infrastructure, and movable assets.
- Drug and substance abuse both inside and outside school premises.
- Undesirable behaviour such as bullying, racism, sexual harassment, and more acts of misconduct.

MEC Chiloane met with Principals and SGBs of the 75 identified schools to re-emphasise implementation of these interventions:

- Deployment of four armed security guards at each school
- Training of Schools Safety Committees by the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership
- Deployment of 500 learner support agents to rotate among these schools
- Deployment of handheld metal detectors to identify dangerous weapons.
- Activation of e-Panic buttons for 3,000 staff members, to be rolled out soon in conjunction with the Gauteng Department of Community Safety.
- Initiating patrols by Safety Wardens (Ama Panya-Panya) around the schools in conjunction with the Gauteng Department of Community Safety.
- Installation of CCTV cameras linked to a provincial command centre
- First aid training to be conducted for learners as part of the Multi-Certification Skills Programme.
- Potential bullies Learners to be taken on 'prison tours.'

"The unwavering commitment of the Department and partnering stakeholders towards the safety and well-being of learners in Gauteng schools is evident through the rigorous implementation of Operation Kgutla Molao. By addressing various safety concerns and collaborating with law enforcement, government agencies, communities, and organisations, they are actively working to create a safer and more secure learning environment for all. The initiatives outlined here not only prioritise the safety of learners and staff but also emphasise the importance of comprehensive training and awareness programs. As we move forward, the Department remains steadfast in its dedication to ensuring that schools in the province become beacons of safety, learning, and growth for all students," said MEC Chiloane..

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Spokesperson, Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860 or Spokesperson for Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane, Xolani Mkhwemte on 084 513 9285

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