



GAUTENG PROVINCE

CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

Date: 21 August 2023

For Immediate Release

GAUTENG PROVINCIAL INITIATION COMMITTEE OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR GAUTENG 2023 SUMMER INITIATION SEASON

Following the recently concluded winter initiation season, the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) hereby calls on Initiation School Principals who wish to conduct customary initiation, to apply for permits for the upcoming Summer Initiation Season.

Both male and female initiation is a cultural ritual practiced by many traditional communities across the province for many years. During the absence of proper legislation and structures in place before, the customary practice of initiation has unfortunately been subject to abuse and resulted in the deaths and harming of initiates. Legislation has since been developed and put in place with the aim and intention to protect the lives of initiates and to promote and regulate the cultural practice.

On 7th August 2023, the PICC resolved to issue dates for opening and closing of initiation applications as per the Customary Initiation Act of 2021.

The applications process will be conducted in three (3) phases and in five (5) regions in Gauteng, namely:

1. City of Tshwane
2. City of Ekurhuleni
3. Sedibeng
4. City of Joburg
5. West Rand

The following are the phases of application process:

Phase 1: Applications

Opening: 21st August 2023

Closing: 31st October 2023

Application forms can be accessed from CoGTA's offices 30 Simmons, Johannesburg or website: <https://www.gauteng.gov.za/Departments/DepartmentDetails/CPM-001002> and the following municipalities: City of Joburg, City of Ekurhuleni, City of Tshwane, Sedibeng District and West-Rand District Municipalities as well as their constituent local municipalities.

Phase 2: Approval of applications

Issuing of letters: 10 November 2023

Publication of registered initiation schools: 15th November 2023

Phase 3: Conducting initiation schools.

*Initiation Schools must be hosted from **14 December 2023 to 16 January 2024**. According to section 27. (1), initiation must be held during the relevant provincial school holidays and may not interfere or overlap with official school terms. In the light of the above, the opening and closing of the winter and summer Initiation season in Gauteng will follow school calendar, i.e., schools close on the 13th of December 2023 and re-opens on the 17 January 2024. Pursuant to the above, the summer customary initiation season will open on the 14 December 2023 and closes on the 16 January 2024.*

Punitive measures are in place and will be enforced in the case of any transgressions of the Customary Initiation Act:

The committee calls on the relevant departments, law enforcement agencies and traditional leaders to increase both preventative and consequence management efforts to end the unnecessary and preventative carnage of young men, period..

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