



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

DATE: 06 OCTOBER 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEC HLOPHE VISITS NALEDI FAMILIES FOLLOWING DEATH OF CHILDREN

Gauteng MEC for Social Development, Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Mbali Hlophe, yesterday the 5th of October 2023 paid a visit to the families of children who allegedly consumed poisoned goods bought from a Somali owned spaza shop in Naledi. Tragically two (2) of the children have passed on, while another two (2) are hospitalized.

The MEC indicated that the purpose of the visit was to offer condolences to the family of the deceased children and offer our support to those who are hospitalized.

During the interaction with the families, the MEC committed to ongoing psycho-social support to the families to help cope with the incident.

The MEC has pledged that the department, as the custodian of the Children's Act, will continue offering support to the families and monitor progress on the case closely, working together with the Department of Community Safety.

"The tragedy that has befallen these families is hurtful and unfortunate. Our law enforcement agencies are working hard to get to the bottom of this case so that families of the deceased can find healing and closure. Importantly those responsible for the untimely passing and illness of the toddlers must face the full might of the law. Our communities rely on these spaza shops for daily goods and food, it's unbecoming if they are to serve as facilities for mass homicide of our people by undocumented individuals."

The MEC once again expresses her condolences and wishes a speedy recovery to the children who are hospitalized.

-ENDS-

ISSUED BY THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

For media enquiries contact Nkosana Mtolo, Spokesperson for the MEC of Gauteng Department Social Development, Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment on 076 764 8442 or email Nkosana.Mtolo@gauteng.go.za