

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

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Another Hammanskraal school learner sexual misconduct video resurfaces

The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) is deeply concerned, that another explicit video clip has resurfaced depicting a learner in what looks like a lap dance, performed on another learner in a classroom at Sikhululekile Secondary School.

This follows a video clip of another learner in the same school, who transgressed the code of conduct, by using foul language and promoting engagement in sexual activities. The said learner has already appeared before a disciplinary committee and was subsequently suspend for 5 days.

It is important noting that investigations are underway regarding the second alarming video in circulation, apparently recorded in February 2018. It is unfortunate that the learner depicted on the second video is 9 months pregnant and currently at home in preparation for giving birth. Her parents were called to the school, as a result. The disciplinary process will resume upon her return.

We are aware that there are about three videos that were captured by Grade 10 learners in February 2018, and as such the investigation will involve the entire learner population from the said grade. The outcome of the investigation will determine the disciplinary action against all implicated learners.

Our Psychosocial Team has been dispatched to the school to offer support and counselling to all affected by this incident. "We are highly disappointed by the conduct of these learners, which has brought the school in disrepute. Sikhululekile Secondary School is one of our best performing school that produces 100% pass especially in Mathematics and Science. Schools are institutions of teaching and learning, and should be treated as such. We strongly condemn any acts of misconduct, which seeks to undermine the dignity of our learning institutions", said MEC Panyaza Lesufi.

GDE has numerous programmes that discourage early sexual activity which includes life orientation programmes that focuses on overall personal wellbeing. We have awareness campaigns that include the doll project in high risk schools as well as mother-daughter dialogues which help teenagers and mothers to talk more openly about issues of sexuality. The voluntary counselling and HIV testing programme in schools creates awareness on protected sex as well as knowing one's status. The combinations of these programmes are aimed at curbing learner pregnancy.

MEC Lesufi further reiterated the need for parents to play a pivotal role in assisting the department with regards to issues of learner discipline in and outside the school environment, as this is a societal responsibility.

The department is interacting with former learners from the said school to create a mentorship programme, which will assist in promoting good learner conduct.

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

Issued by the Gauteng Provincial Government

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