



## GAUTENG PROVINCE

CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND  
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

Date: Friday, 21 July 2023

For Immediate Release

#### **Gauteng provincial initiation committee reports on the winter initiation season 2023**

The Gauteng winter initiation school season started on **23 June 2023 and ended on 17 July 2023**. The season coincided with the provincial school holiday calendar

The Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee received a total of 87 applications for the registration of legal initiation schools throughout the province. 83 of these applications were for male initiation schools, while 4 were made for female initiation schools. Only 6 of these applications met the requirements and were successful.

Legislature dictates that the PICC (Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee) must monitor and evaluate the general functioning of initiation schools during initiation school period. It was during this monitoring process that two fatalities were reported during this period. One fatality involved a 42-year-old man that died during an initiation at an illegal initiation school in the city of Tshwane while a second initiate, a 21-year-old young man died at a registered school in Ratanda. Both cases are still under investigation by the SAPS and 2 suspects have since been arrested.

A total of 138 initiates were rescued and removed from illegal schools after the committee received reports of illegal initiation schools and 9 illegal initiation schools were subsequently closed.

Amongst the common challenges experienced by the monitoring teams, involved the following:

The abduction and abuse of initiates, the death of initiates at unregistered schools, some parents withdraw cases because of threats from abductors or principals, and principals of unregistered initiation schools allow criminal activities including assault, abuse and the distribution of drugs and alcohol to minors.

With the summer initiation season now in planning phase, 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 our initiates. We all agree that the death of two initiates, are still two too many. Every effort must therefore be made to ensure safety of the initiates and to prevent death from becoming normalise

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