



To all Media Houses (For immediate Release)

29 August 2023

The MEC for Gauteng Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, E-Government, Research and Development Mr. Mzi Khumalo is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life of 5 children resulting from tragic fire incident at Itireleng Informal Settlement in Tshwane

On the 28th of August 2023, the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PMDC) received information about a fire incident at Itireleng Informal Settlement near Laudium in the City of Tshwane. The PDMC together with the officials from City of Tshwane Disaster Management Centre conducted a physical verification assessment.

The fire destroyed six informal dwellings, resulting in the tragic death of the 5 children (3 boys and 2 girls) aged 1 to 7. The circumstances surrounding the cause of fire that led to the death of 5 children are a matter of police investigation.

We welcome the swift response by the different government departments and stakeholders when this incident happened.

The affected families have been provided with humanitarian support by the PMDC and City of Tshwane Disaster Management. The Gauteng Provincial Government and its social partners will provide counselling and food parcels, additionally, a housing / accommodation assessment and assistance will be provided upon conclusion of the assessment.

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) together with City of Tshwane welfare will assist with burial support once household profiling has been done.

It is reported that the two individuals who are related to the deceased children have been taken in for questioning, it is grossly irresponsible for adults to leave minor children unattended.

The various departments of the Gauteng Provincial Government are currently conducting assessments and profiling the affected communities. Support and assistance will be provided based on the assessments.

This unfortunate incident demonstrates that irresponsible behavior puts the safety of children at risk.

MEC Mzi Khumalo sends condolences to the bereaved families and wishes them strength and comfort during these difficult times.

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