



GAUTENG PROVINCE

CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

To: All Media

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Urgent Reminder

Gauteng Government extends permit application deadline for 2025 Winter Initiation school

The Gauteng Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) has extended the permit application deadline for prospective Initiation School principals to the 14th of February 2025. The initial closing date for applications was 31st of January 2025, but due to the slow responses from prospective applicants, The PICC, at a meeting held on 27 January 2025, decided to extend the closing date. The Committee also urges applicants to apply before the closing date and warns that applications received after the 14th of February 2025, will not be considered.

*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. The opening and closing of the winter and summer Initiation seasons in Gauteng will follow the school's calendar. **Initiation schools will be hosted between the 28th of June to the 21st of July 2025.** Opening and closing dates for initiation schools attended **exclusively** by initiates who have already completed secondary education will be hosted between **1st May to 21st July 2025.** Any school operating outside the dates prescribed, will face legal consequences.*

During the recently concluded summer initiation season, the PICC received reports of three unfortunate incidents where 3 initiates lost their lives during the Initiation season in the Sedibeng District municipality. These incidents are treated with great urgency and regret and are currently the subject of investigations by the SAPS. All efforts are in place to prevent the loss of life and injuries during the upcoming Winter initiation season

The following punitive measures will be taken against transgressions of the Customary Initiation Act:

1. Any school person who-
 - a) holds a non-registered initiation school or is involved in any initiation practices at such non-registered initiation school
 - b) accept an initiate who is under the age of 16
 - c) accept an initiate without receiving the required medical certificate or consent form is guilty of an offence and liable for conviction to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 years or to both a fine and such imprisonment.
2. A person who forces any person to attend an initiation school or who forges any consent form or obtain such consent by means of duress will be guilty of an offence and liable for conviction to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years or to both a fine and such imprisonment.
3. The initiation school that commences before or beyond school holidays will be suspended to hold initiation and will be found guilty of an offence and will be liable upon conviction to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or both a fine and such imprisonment as per provision of *section 33(4) of the Customary Initiation Act*.

END

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