



# GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

**To: All Media**

**Att: News Editors**

**For immediate release**

**7 November 2014**

### **GDE taking urgent steps to deal with power disconnections at schools in Tshwane**

The Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, has expressed concern over electricity and/or water disconnections by the City of Tshwane in schools within the municipality due to arrears.

What is of extreme concern to the MEC is that this is happening at a crucial time when learners are busy with exams. The affected schools are Section 21 schools, Special schools and Independent schools that are in arrears to the tune of R21 million. The schools have cited rising rates and taxes as a challenge.

Section 21 schools manage their own finances and maintain their own infrastructure using the budget allocated to them by the Department.

The department has however taken a decision to bailout the Section 21 schools that are in arrears to the tune of R10 million by 30 November 2014, due to the serious inconvenience the disconnections may cause to the delivery of teaching and learning.

The department has engaged special schools and independent schools to encourage them to pay their bills. To date, schools continue to pay to settle their arrears.

The MEC is seeking an urgent meeting with the Executive Mayor of Tshwane to discuss how future disconnections can be avoided as well as rates and taxes charged at schools.

We would like to apologise to our learners, educators and staff at schools for the inconvenience caused the power cuts. We would also like to assure parents and members of the public at large that we are moving speedily to resolve this matter.

**For more information contact the Gauteng Department of Education's spokesperson, Phumla Sekhonyane on 071 860 4496 or 011 355 1530.**

**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education**

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