



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

18 February 2015

Department seeks court interdict against protesting parents

The Gauteng Department of Education has approached the South Gauteng High Court to interdict parents from protesting, threatening and refusing the principal and educators of Roodepoort Primary school to enter the school premises.

The interdict will prevent them from “perpetrating any acts which are violent and disruptive in nature” against the employees of the department.

It is reported that some parents are unhappy with the appointment of a black principal at the school and prefer a “Coloured” principal and educators. They have reportedly intimidated black educators and told them that “their safety at the school is not guaranteed”. Over the last three months, they have been voicing their concerns by protesting and barring some teachers and the principal from entering the school, therefore disrupting learning and teaching. This group of parents have previously lodged complaints against the principal of the school. The allegations were investigated and found not to be true.

The MEC Panyaza Lesufi has condemned the behaviour of these parents in the strongest terms. “We will not tolerate racism in any of our schools in Gauteng,” the MEC said. He further said that such behaviour

is unnecessary and has a negative impact on learners as they are losing valuable classroom time.

The department will continue to monitor the situation so that learning and teaching continues without any disruptions.

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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