



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

14 November 2019

GDE Disturbed by Bullying and Disruption of Schools During Exam Season

The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) and Youth Development has today 14 November 2019 suspended with immediate effect a 16-year-old Grade 10 girl-learner at Hoërskool Jan Viljoen for allegedly assaulting a 16-year old Grade 9 boy-learner on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at the said school after writing their exams.

This emanates from a video footage that went viral on social media where the girl-learner is seen assaulting the boy-learner. It is unfortunate that the incident happened at the time when learners are busy with their year-end examinations.

We strongly condemn any misdemeanour in schools, which could lead to serious action being taken against a learner. We have dispatched our psycho-social team to provide necessary support to all affected by the said incident.

The SGB will facilitate the disciplinary process in due course and the department will ensure that proper procedures are followed. The school is assisted to come up with a preventative measure, to curb the possibilities of recurrence. While the matter may be concluded as soon as the disciplinary hearing is finalised, remedial action may take longer depending on the programmes that the learner may be subjected to, such as diversion programme for behaviour modification and counselling.

Learners must be reminded that, schools are for education and as such they must always focus on being enriched with knowledge for their successful future endeavours. Ill-discipline will not assist learners to achieve any objectives in schools.

We have a policy of zero tolerance to bullying or any form of misconduct. Anyone found to be transgressing this policy is dealt with in line with South African Schools Act (SASA) code of conduct, which governs all schools. Schools are urged to enforce their codes of conduct to deal with bullying and other disciplinary matters. The department relentlessly appeals to parents in assisting to enforce discipline in and outside the school environment.

“We urge principals and educators to respond appropriately when cases of bullying, violence and intimidation are reported. Ignoring these reports makes the victim feel more vulnerable and subjected to secondary trauma of adults that show a cavalier attitude, we also urge our learners to refrain from any acts of misconduct in schools as it will impact negatively on their performance” said MEC Lesufi.

Meanwhile, today, 14 November 2019, a group of parents locked the gates at Mountainview Secondary School in Heidelberg subsequently, preventing educators and learners from entering the school yard. The parents have indicated that they have long standing grievances which were not addressed by the District.

It is encouraging that the Grade 12 learners were transported by officials to an undisclosed venue where they continued with their examinations. Because of the said disruption, it is sad to note that, all Grade 9 and Grade 11 learners could not write their examinations accordingly. However, the examinations will be re-scheduled to another date and learners will continue as normal from tomorrow.

The District officials engaged parents and allowed them to present a list of demands which they undertook to respond on Wednesday, 20 November 2019.

“We wish to appeal, to parents not to disrupt schooling, especially during this critical time of examinations” said MEC Lesufi.

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education’s Spokesperson, Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education

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