

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

06 September 2019

MEC Lesufi Concerned about death of two learners at Noordwyk Secondary School

The Gauteng MEC for Education and Youth Development MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, today **06 September 2019**, expressed shock and concern over the death of two Grade 11 learners from Noordwyk Secondary School.

It is alleged that a 17 year old girl learner, Dimakatso Shai committed suicide on Monday 02 September 2019 and her fellow learner an 18 year old boy Seandaryl Masuku also took his life on Thursday 05 September 2019.

Unfortunately, it is unknown what prompted the two deceased learners to commit suicide. Police are investigating circumstances surrounding both deaths.

A memorial service of a girl learner was conducted on Thursday, 05 September and she will be laid to rest on Saturday, 07 September 2019, at Church Christ, 9th and 11th Road, Erand, Midrand, 8:00. Memorial and funeral services arrangements for the 18 year old boy learner will be announced in due course.

“It is unfortunate and regrettable that learners took their own lives in this manner. We take this time to send our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and the school community, during this time of grief. No words are enough to express our sorrow at a loss of a child. We hope that the families will find comfort in the knowledge that we too share their loss,” said MEC Lesufi.

We further appeal to our learners to focus on their education and refrain from other things that may have a negative impact on their studies. Learners are also urged to utilise support programmes availed to them if they experience any challenges.

Our Psycho-Social Unit was dispatched to the school to provide necessary intervention including debriefing and counselling to the school community. We are finalizing arrangements with LifeLine on a Suicide Prevention Program to be provided to the school and neighbouring schools.

This is to call upon parents and learners to utilize the LifeLine Call Centre on 0861 322 322 for assistance when required.

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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