



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

11 February 2020

MEC Lesufi distraught by yet more learner deaths

The Gauteng MEC for Education and Youth Development, Mr. Panyaza Lesufi is distraught by today's tragic death of a 16-year-old Grade 10 boy learner from Ferndale High School, who jumped from the 3rd floor school balcony.

According to the information at our disposal, the deceased learner had an epileptic seizure which resulted in him jumping from the 3rd floor balcony. Paramedics and the parents of the said learner were immediately called to the scene and the learner was rushed to a nearby hospital after being attended on the scene. Unfortunately the learner succumbed to his injuries.

On a separate incident, on Sunday, 09 February 2020, a 17-year-old Grade 11 girl learner from Tharabollo Secondary School committed suicide at her home.

It is alleged that the learner drank poison while alone at home. Upon being found, she was rushed to Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, whereby she was certified dead on arrival.

Unfortunately, it is unknown what prompted the deceased learner to commit suicide. The police are investigating circumstances surrounding this unfortunate incident.

"We take this time to send our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and the school communities, 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.

Our Psycho Social Unit has commenced with the necessary support and counselling to both school communities and this support will be extended to the bereaved families.

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

MEC Lesufi will visit Ferndale High School and the bereaved family tomorrow afternoon, 12 February 2020.

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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