



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Att: News Editors

For immediate release

21 February 2020

14 -year-old learner stabbed to death by another learner.

The Gauteng Education MEC, Mr. Panyaza Lesufi, wishes to inform with a heavy heart about the untimely death of a 14 -year- old boy - learner from Freedom Park Secondary School.

It is alleged that the boy was stabbed by another learner, on Thursday **20 February 2020**, after school near their homes. Both learners are in Grade 10.

The suspect is on the run. Police are investigating circumstances surrounding the matter.

“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 family will find comfort in the knowledge that we too share their loss,”

“We strongly condemn any acts of learner misconduct and relentlessly appeal to parents in assisting to enforce discipline in and outside the school environment,” said MEC Lesufi.

Shock assault video goes viral

The MEC is shocked to witness an assault by an educator from Modiri Secondary School, who is seen on a video footage assaulting a learner badly in a classroom.

We have sent our officials at school to investigate circumstances surrounding this sad incident and as such necessary decisive action will be taken accordingly.

“I am horrified by the images on the video footage and would like to remind all teachers that corporal punishment is outlawed by the Constitution and the South African Schools Act. Educators have been trained in alternative methods of discipline which ought to be applied in schools,” said MEC Lesufi

Corporal punishment is outlawed at schools. The department notes that Section 10 of the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996 prohibits corporal punishment. We view these in a serious light. We wish to remind educators that they will face disciplinary action if they continue to administer corporal punishment.

Pupils from Lofentse Girls School hospitalised after eating 'space cakes'

About 39 learners from Lofentse Girls Secondary School in Soweto were yesterday, **20 February 2020**, treated at the Bheki Mlangeni hospital and Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital after eating poisoned cakes.

The learners were taken to hospitals after they complained about stomach pains while others were vomiting. They were then transported to hospitals where they were seen and later discharged.

Ten (10) learners were treated at the Bheki Mlangeni hospital whilst 29 were attended to at the Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital. Eight (8) learners were discharged from Bheki Mlangeni whilst one was transferred to Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital.

It is important to note that at the Chris Hani Baragwanath 29 learners were treated and 11 have remained at the hospital. The total number of the learners who are under observation at the hospital as of today, **21 February 2020**, is 12.

“We wish them a speedy recovery and hope they will resume with their studies soonest,” 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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