



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**To: All Media
Att: News Editors
For immediate release**

5 July 2023

MEC CHILOANE SADDENED BY TWO LEARNER SUICIDE DEATHS

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane is saddened by the untimely passing of two learners; a Grade 8 girl learner from Geluksdal Secondary School in Ekurhuleni and a Grade 12 girl learner from Nigel High School also in Ekurhuleni, who unfortunately took their own lives on Tuesday, 4 July 2023, and Thursday, 29 June 2023, respectively.

According to information at our disposal, the learner from Nigel High School consumed poison at home on Thursday, 29 June 2023, and succumbed.

Subsequently, the learner from Geluksdal Secondary School also consumed poison at home on Tuesday, 4 July 2023 in the evening. She began complicating and was rushed to a nearby medical facility. Sadly, she died in the vehicle while being transported to receive medical attention.

"We wish to convey our deepest condolences to the families and school communities of these learners. Indeed, it is really concerning that learners will resort to taking their own lives. We call upon learners to always seek assistance for necessary support to be provided. Our Psycho-Social Support Team will visit all affected schools to provide required support to the school community and families once Term 3 begins," said MEC Chiloane.

Learners who may be experiencing abuse or need counselling are encouraged to contact Childline by simply dialling 116 for assistance.

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

For more updates regarding GDE related news and information, follow us on our website and social media platforms:

f Facebook: [The Gauteng Department of Education](https://www.facebook.com/TheGautengDepartmentofEducation)

t Twitter: [@EducationGP1](https://twitter.com/EducationGP1)

ig Instagram: [@gautengdepartmentofeducation](https://www.instagram.com/gautengdepartmentofeducation)

For media releases, speech and news visit the Gauteng Department of Education's portal: education.gauteng.gov.za

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education