



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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

**25 October 2023**

### **MEC CHILOANE SADDENED BY KHEHLEKILE PRIMARY LEARNER DEATH AND DISPLEASED BY BUNKING LEARNERS**

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane is deeply saddened by a tragic incident that took place on Monday, 23 October 2023, where a Grade 6 boy learner from Khehlekile Primary School in Thokoza, Ekurhuleni, was found dead in a bathroom at home in the evening.

According to information at our disposal, the learner was found hanging at his family's home. The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) can confirm that an internal investigation to probe allegations of bullying at school has been launched.

Police are investigating circumstances surrounding the death of the learner.

Our Psycho-Social Support team and officials from the Gauteng Department of Social Development started yesterday with the process of providing necessary counselling and will continue as per need.

"We wish to express our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and school community during this difficult time. Our thoughts are with them as we navigate this tragic loss together. We are committed to providing support to the family, learners, and school community at large during this challenging time," said MEC Chiloane.

Meanwhile, the GDE is also aware of a recent video that went viral on social media on Tuesday, 24 October 2023, which shows a group of learners from President High School in Ridgeway, Johannesburg, who were allegedly bunking class.

The matter was reported following the school receiving a concerning call from a resident in Lion Ridge Complex, stating that learners from President High School were allegedly bunking at a house in the complex. In response to this report, officials from the school promptly visited the complex and, upon arrival, was informed by security personnel that Mondeor Police had already collected the learners.

The Gauteng Department of Education is taking this matter seriously, and as such, through the school we have initiated an investigation to assist in a necessary Disciplinary Hearing against all affected learners in accordance with our policies.

"We uphold the importance of maintaining discipline and ensuring that our learners adhere to the rules and regulations of the school. As such, we are displeased at the behaviour by these learners, shown in the video footage. Learners must always be wary of negative behaviour which might implicate their future. We are working diligently to address this issue and prevent such incidents from happening in the future," said MEC Chiloane.

**For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Spokesperson, Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860 or Spokesperson for Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane, Xolani Mkhwemte on 084 513 9285**

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**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education**