



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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

8 August 2023

MEC CHILOANE SADDENED BY TWO LEARNER SUICIDES

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane is deeply saddened by two separate learner suicide cases that were reported in the province this morning.

One of the incidents occurred at Soshanguve Secure Centre, where a Grade 10 boy learner was discovered hanging in a dormitory during lunch on Monday, 7 August 2023. It is reported that the learner had been taken to the juvenile centre about 2 weeks ago and was awaiting trial.

In a separate incident, a Grade 9 boy learner from Kgetsi Ya Tsie Secondary School tragically took his own life at home on the same day.

Our Psycho-Social Support Unit will be dispatched to provide assistance in both instances accordingly.

“These incidents serve as a grim reminder that the emotional well-being of learners is a shared responsibility that requires immediate attention from all of us. As we mourn the loss of young lives, there is a growing determination to prevent future tragedies and to foster a culture of support, compassion, and understanding within the educational community. We wish to extend our condolences to families and school communities” said MEC Chiloane.

For immediate assistance and support, learners are encouraged to contact Childline by dialing 116. The Childline toll-free Helpline is available 24 hours a day (free from all networks) and what you talk about is confidential. However, if you want to say who you are and see a counsellor you can request for such accordingly.

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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