



MEDIA STATEMENT

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

29 January 2024

MEC CHILOANE INTRODUCES LAW FIRM TO INVESTIGATE DEATH OF LATOYA TEMILITON

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane visited Laerskool Queenswood on Monday, 29 January 2024, to introduce Nchupetsang Inc Attorneys, which has been appointed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Grade 7 learner Latoya Temilton.

Meshack Nchupetsang, Head of Nchupetsang Inc Attorneys, outlined the terms of reference that will lead the investigation. At the forefront is consulting and interviewing all relevant stakeholders involved. These include learners, teachers, the principal, School Governing Body members, the School Management Team and the family. The law firm will also visit Wag 'n Bietjie Resort in Witkoppen, the venue of the excursion, to interview personnel there, inspect the scene, and review CCTV footage.

More so, the law firm will interact with police to review postmortem results, and interact with the family of the learner, particularly on allegations that have been circulating publicly. The firm is scheduled to complete their investigation in 7 days, after which the recommendations provided from their findings will be stringently implemented by the department.

The MEC was unable to present the law firm to the family as they are still away in Mpumalanga following funeral proceedings. However, the department will facilitate necessary engagements between the family and the law firm as they are integral to this investigation, and need to be afforded the respect they deserve in this matter.

"The school has assured their full co-operation in this investigation, which is crucial to determine allegations and circumstances surrounding this incident. As the department, we wish to prevent incidents of this nature from occurring 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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