



MEDIA STATEMENT

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

25 January 2024

MEC CHILOANE SADDENED BY DEATH OF LAERSKOOL QUEENSWOOD LEARNER

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane is deeply saddened by a tragic incident that took place on Saturday, 20 January 2024, where a Grade 7 girl learner from Laerskool Queenswood in Pretoria allegedly drowned during a school excursion.

According to information at our disposal, the school went on an approved one-day excursion to Wag 'n Bietjie Resort in Witkoppen, Olifantafontein. Reports allege that the learner unfortunately drowned during the excursion.

Police are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding this incident. Our district and the school have visited the learner's family to convey their condolences.

MEC Chiloane has recommended that an independent investigation be conducted. As such, the process of appointing an independent law firm is underway. The law firm will be introduced to the School Management Team and the learner's family subsequent to their appointment.

The school held a memorial service for the learner on Wednesday, 24 January 2024, to commemorate and honour her life.

"We are devastated by this tragic loss. We convey our sincerest condolences to the bereaved family and school community at large. We are hopeful an independent investigation into this incident will assist to determine on what exactly occurred," 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