



GAUTENG PROVINCE
ROADS AND TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Attn: News Editors / Transport Reporters

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gauteng appoints Advocate Bokaba to lead the investigation into the Mamelodi drowning incident

Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport has appointed a senior counsel to lead an independent investigation into the tragic incident where two boys, aged 4 and 7, drowned last Saturday near a road construction site in Mamelodi, Tshwane.

Advocate Thomas Bokaba has been appointed to find the relevant facts and accountability for the deaths and also establish failures on the part of the Department, contractor.

MEC Jacob Mamabolo stressed that although the investigation has been commissioned by the Department, it will be completely independent of the Department, and the findings and recommendations will be those of the investigator alone.

"The Department's role will be to provide the investigator with access to all materials and information within its power and control that the investigator regards as relevant to the purposes of the Investigation.

"The Department will also assist with facilitating meetings with any person who may have information relevant to the investigation as well as provide such assistance as may be necessary for the investigator to obtain materials and information requested from third parties," Mamabolo explained.

The investigation shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice, respecting the confidentiality of information received on that basis, rights of privacy and the security of information.

The report shall be completed and delivered to the Department as soon as is reasonably possible, bearing in mind the need for a thorough investigation. The findings and recommendations shall be disclosed publicly.

"We would like to caution against dangerous speculations and encourage everyone to await the outcomes of the investigation," said Mamabolo.

The two boys, from Kopanong Informal Settlement in Mamelodi, drowned in a quarry at a road construction site along the K54, part of the upgrading of the Solomon Mahlangu Drive. The MEC had earlier in the week visited the affected families to extend his condolences.

Ends

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport

For more information please contact Melitah Madiba on 073 644 9935 or Theo Nkonki on 082 719 6404 or E-mail: pressoffice.gpdrdt@gauteng.gov.za