

ALL "SYSTEMS GO" FOR THE 2023 INITIATION SCHOOLS SEASON.



From the left: Advocate Tshwane, CoGHSTA MEC, Mr Basikopo and the Chairperson of the Provincial Initiation Coordination Committee (PICC), Hosi Chauke during the 2023 Initiation Schools' readiness media briefing.



Members of the media attending the department's briefing on the 2023 Initiation Schools' readiness.



The Chairperson of the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC), Hosi Chauke during the 2023 Initiation Schools' readiness media briefing.



CoGHSTA MEC, Mr Basikopo Makamu updated members of the media on the department's readiness on the 2023 Initiation Schools' Season.

Polokwane – The Limpopo Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) held a media briefing on its readiness for the 2023 Initiation Schools' Season.

The briefing was held at the Department's headquarters in Polokwane on Thursday, 15 June 2023. MEC Basikopo Makamu stressed on the good relationship and support the Department has with sister departments like Health, Education, SAPS, and the National Prosecuting Authority during the Initiation Season each year.

"This year the initiation school program will commence on the 16th of June, and is scheduled to end on the 15th of July.

The number of initiation school applications received has

declined to a total of 644 as compared to last year's 680.

From this grand total 587 have been approved, 328 of which are male and 259 are female initiation schools," he reported. MEC Makamu further said that the department will spare no efforts in ensuring that the lives of initiates are protected. "We want to appeal to parents to authenticate the legitimacy of initiation schools they intend to send their children to, with their respective Traditional Authorities. There will be zero tolerance for people who want to take chances by running initiation schools without permits. As we have done in the past, we will be working with our law enforcement agencies to prevent any unnecessary loss of young lives and also to ensure that the rights of these young boys and girls are not violated," he said.

The Chairperson of the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC), Hosi Chauke said that the department will always work with the judiciary to ensure that those operating illegal initiation schools are brought to book.

"I would like to not only urge parents to do their research and enrol their children in registered and legal initiation schools but also appeal to journalists to assist us with information regarding any illegal activities regarding initiation schools in villages," he voiced.

MEC Makamu thanked all members of the media for the impressive attendance and wished all relevant role players another successful initiation schools' season.