



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Attention: ALL MEDIA HOUSES
22 March 2021

MEC BASIKOPO MAKAMU SADDENED BY ANOTHER DROWNING IN GREATER GIYANI MUNICIPALITY

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Basikopo Makamu is saddened by the deaths of two boys aged 13 and 15 who drowned whilst swimming in Letaba River between Maswanganyi and Siyandhani villages under Greater Giyani Municipality in Limpopo Province. The deceased Sabata Rikhotso (13) and Ntshembho Makhasa (15) are both from Maswanganyi village and were swimming in the river when the incident occurred.

“This is the year when the Province continues to receive heavy rainfall since it was struck by a tropical storm,” MEC said. “This morning we had rain, even though it was not huge, but it has added to the water that is already flowing in the river. I will continue to urge parents to take care of their children as it is kids mainly that are swept away whilst playing and swimming, and others trying to cross the flowing rivers. I also thank the swift response by the police who went to the river where the boys drowned to recover their bodies.”

MEC Makamu continues to warn of the dangers of the continuing rainy weather that is being experienced recently in many parts of the province. The MEC says the Provincial Disaster Management Centre in partnership with relevant stakeholders are working around the clock to ensure that urgent relief is given to all families and communities that are affected by this rainy weather condition.

MEC Makamu reiterates his advices to people living next to rivers and streams to evacuate to safer places or higher spots when water levels rise, not to drive over a low-level bridges if the water is flowing strong. He further appeals to parents to educate their children not to swim in rivers, streams and ponds in open areas during flooding.

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