

Immediate Release

03 May 2021

Attention: All Media Houses

Limpopo Provincial House of Traditional Leaders Suspends the winter Initiation season

Following the recent extension declaration of the state of Disaster in mid-March 2021 due to Covid-19 Pandemic, the Limpopo Provincial House of Traditional Leaders has resolved to suspend the launch of the Initiation School for the Winter Season until further notice. The decision is informed by the threat of the spread of the Corona Virus Pandemic and to save lives of the initiates. Currently Covid-19 is still with us, even though we are at level 1 of Lockdown, it is speculated that we might enter the third wave of the Pandemic and more people are going to be affected by this Virus.

It is our well thought decision that in Limpopo all Initiation Schools should remain suspended until it is safe for all to can participate in this important passage for young men and women to become responsible adults in the society. We are calling all Senior Traditional Leaders to work hand in hand with government, in ensuring that all stakeholders adhere to the call that all Initiation Schools should not be launched in their communities during the winter initiation season.

We will keep assessing the environment, checking the risks related to Covid-19, and guided by the National Command Council and all the key stakeholders, we will decide on a way forward. As the House, we will continue working with all the relevant stakeholders, Department of Health, South African Police Services in preparation for next Initiation

School Season. Preparations are underway and once we have an approval we will communicate with our communities.

As the Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, I can confirm that as Traditional Leaders in the Province, we are ready to sit down with all the relevant stakeholders to address issues related to Initiation Schools and practices. The House is calling all stakeholders especially Traditional Leaders to prioritise the health of the initiates. All stakeholders are encouraged to stick to the decision and focus on the fight against Covid-19. We are warning everyone that perpetrators on this matter will be prosecuted.

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