



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: All Media Houses**

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**For Immediate release**

**COGHSTA CLOSSES DOWN INITIATION SCHOOL AND SUSPENDS  
TRADITIONAL CAREGIVERS FOLLOWING A DEATH**

The Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs has suspended caregivers and closed down an initiation school under the Modjadji Traditional Community in the Mopani District Municipality following the death of a minor at the school last night.

It has been established that the six-year-old initiate, who had been diagnosed with epilepsy, was admitted at the initiation school with his parents' consent. Both the parents of the boy and the initiation school have contravened Section 12 (1) of the Limpopo Initiation Schools Act 2016 which states that no person below the age of twelve can be admitted to an initiation school.

"This is a devastating development. We have been, since the beginning of this initiation season, begging for parents to play an active role in adhering to the law that governs initiation schools. We condemn, in the harshest terms, the admitting of children that are underage at initiation schools for this exact reason," said COGHSTA MEC Basikopo Makamu.

The MEC has warned that this type of action, whether with the blessing of a parent or not, will not be tolerated.

"We have swiftly moved to close down the initiation school, and immediately suspended the traditional caregivers and surgeons who were operating there. This has unfortunately tarnished our target of - no deaths during this initiation season - but beyond that, we are heartbroken that an innocent life has been unnecessarily cut shot at such a tender age," he said.

The matter has been handed over to the Kgapane Police Station, who are investigating the case.

*End.*

***Issued: Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs  
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