



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**To: All Media Houses**

**Date: 02 July 2025**

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN  
SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS IN LIMPOPO FOLLOWING A FIRE INCIDENT  
AT AN INITIATION SCHOOL IN TZANEEN**

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Basikopo Makamu is deeply shocked following a fire incident which left six (6) initiates, and a traditional surgeon injured. The incident happened at a legal private initiation school at Maake Village, outside Tzaneen.

According to the surgeon who is also a principal of the initiation school, they were awoken by a huge blaze at around 23h00 on Tuesday, 01 July 2025. While the fire was ultimately contained, a total of seven (7) people sustained injuries from the blaze. The five (5) initiates are in a stable condition at Dr C N Phatudi Hospital while the sixth one was transferred to Letaba Hospital for further treatment. The surgeon has been discharged.

MEC Makamu and members of the Provincial Initiation Coordination Committee, led by Chairperson, Hosi Shitlhangoma Chauke , visited the patients in Dr C N Phatudi hospital today (Wednesday 02 July 2025) to offer support and extend words of comfort.

MEC Makamu says “the incident is shocking indeed. We never expected such news during this initiation season due to extensive preparations which were made by the department and the PICC and other sister departments. It leaves us without enough words to comfort the families of the affected kids as well as the surgeon. We really wish them a speedy recovery.”

The remaining 18 initiates who survived the blaze remain safe, and an alternative school was immediately erected to allow them to complete the season. The department will continue to work with the provincial health department, the department of education, SAPS as well as the National Prosecuting Authority to ensure that the 2025 initiation season becomes a resounding success and in line with the laws of the Republic.

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*Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA).*

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