



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

MEDIA STATEMENT

To all media

07 July 2025

COGHSTA MEC, HON BASIKOPO MAKAMU, DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF AN INITIATE

The MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Basikopo Makamu is deeply saddened by the death of an initiate in the Sekhukhune District. The 19 year old Raymond Sekele passed on Sunday, 06 July 2025 at Philadelphia Hospital where he had been admitted, after experiencing health challenges while at an initiation school.

According to our monitoring report, Sekele's caregiver confirmed that at the time of admission; he was epileptic and was receiving medical treatment for his condition. Sekele initially experienced an epileptic episode where he collapsed on 02 July 2025, and he was attended to at initiation school. He recovered fully later the same day and resumed normal school activities without any further complaints.

"I got a report that an initiate failed to wake up with the other initiates on Sunday (06 July 2025). However, it was not considered unusual as he was known to sleep longer than others. At around 08h00, the caregiver checked on him and found that he was unresponsive and had weak breathing," says MEC Makamu.

The assigned Doctor at the initiation school and his guardian were notified about the incident. The school was advised to urgently take the initiate to hospital where he could meet the Doctor for further checks.

Upon arrival, at Philadelphia Hospital, Sekele was admitted for emergency treatment. Later, the caregiver received a call from the initiate's family confirming that the initiate had passed away.

"We are indeed deeply saddened by this death. One death is one too many. Working closely with the Department of Health, Education the SAPS and the National Prosecuting Authority, we have put all systems in place to ensure that no life is lost. However this death is a confirmation that we need to work even harder to avert fatalities at during initiation season. We extended our heartfelt condolences to the family during this difficult period," says the MEC.

The family confirmed that the initiate had a history of epilepsy and was on medication when admitted to the initiation school. Sekele was admitted to a legal initiation school at Dennilton Uitspanning B (Magakadimeng), in the Sekhukhune District Municipality under the permit of Kgoshigadi Mathebe Morongwe Cathrine.

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Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

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