



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

MEDIA STATEMENT

To all media

12 July 2025

COGHSTA MEC HON BASIKOPO MAKAMU TO VISIT TWO INITIATION SCHOOLS FOLLOWING REPORTS OF BOTCHED CIRCUMCISION

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs in Limpopo Honorable Basikopo Makamu is deeply concerned at reports of botched circumcision incidents at two schools in the Waterberg District.

On the 10 July 2025, when performing daily duties, the department's monitors discovered that two initiation schools were experiencing challenges that were delaying progress of initiates. Considering the remaining days before the 2025 season closes, the department of Health, through George Masebe hospital, was roped in for evaluation and intervention.

The total number of twenty one(21) initiates in Lesodi and Rantlakane schools, under Mapela, were identified by the health professionals for re-circumcision. Only five(5) initiates were attended to and released on the 11th July 2025, for the one day procedure, due to capacity challenges at George Masebe Hospital. The remaining sixteen (16) initiates were returned to their respective initiation schools and will be taken to Mokopane Hospital on Monday 14 July 2025.

MEC Makamu will be visiting the affected schools early next week for a first hand account of what transpired. "It is part of our responsibility to ensure the safety and health of initiates. Together with the Department of Health we believe this action is appropriate to avoid any fatalities. We shall continuously monitor to ensure that all schools comply before the season ends. " says MEC Makamu.

The Department reiterate its call on initiation schools principals, traditional surgeons and caregivers to be extremely vigilant and avoid any harm on the safety of the initiates, as the 2025 season draws to a close.

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

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