



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

Ref: LH8/3/2

Enq: Baloyi S.T (5580)

Media Statement

Attention: All Media Houses

Date: 24/06/2024

Subject: Clarity Regarding the Death of Ex-Initiate at Ga-Welly Village and Other Related Incidents

The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) wishes to address recent events and clarify misinformation regarding incidents at various initiation schools within the Greater Letaba Local Municipality.

Incident at Ga-Welly Village

We regret to announce the death of a young boy who was forcefully withdrawn by his parents from the Modjadjie initiation school on 22/06/2024. Tragically, the boy passed away on 23/06/2024 while in the custody of his parents. The cause of his death remains unknown at this time. An investigation is currently underway to determine the circumstances surrounding this unfortunate event. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved family during this difficult time.

Clarification on Misinformation

The Department strongly refutes the misinformation circulating regarding the alleged deaths of two individuals at an initiation school in Ga-Raphahlelo, Sekgosese area. No deaths have been reported at this initiation school. We urge the public and media to refrain from spreading unverified information that may cause unnecessary panic and distress.

Incident in Itereleng Village, Sekgosese

We are saddened by the death of a 35-year-old man who passed away following an assault during a clash between a group of initiation school supervisors and community members in Itereleng village, Sekgosese, Limpopo. The incident occurred yesterday and

is currently under investigation. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the deceased.

COGHSTA emphasizes the importance of harmonious working relations within initiation schools. We urge all stakeholders to work together peacefully and respectfully to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants in initiation activities.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families affected by these tragic incidents. The Department remains committed to supporting the affected communities and ensuring that all initiation practices are conducted safely and respectfully.

For further information, please contact:

[Contact Information]

Issued by:

The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA)