



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

MEDIA STATEMENT

ISSUED BY: Office of COGHSTA MEC

SUBJECT: Readiness Report on 2024 Winter Initiation Schools Season

Date: Tuesday, 28 May 2024

The Limpopo Provincial Government is pleased to announce its readiness for the 2024 winter initiation schools season. This readiness report has been submitted for the consideration of the Chairperson of the National Initiation Oversight Committee.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this statement is to outline the preparedness and steps taken to ensure the safe and successful conduct of initiation schools in Limpopo for the 2024 season.

2. BACKGROUND

The initiation schools in Limpopo operate under the Customary Initiation Act, 2021 (Act 2 of 2021), and the Limpopo Initiation Schools Act, 2016 (Act 6 of 2016). The Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC), established by the Premier of Limpopo on 17 January 2023, oversees these schools. The initiation school season will commence on 14 June 2024 and conclude on 13 July 2024, aligning with the academic calendar.

The Provincial Government, in collaboration with the PICC, ensures that initiation schools operate safely and legally, preventing any fatalities or unauthorized schools within the province.

3. DISCUSSION

Application Process and Approval:

The PICC initiated the application process for the 2024 initiation schools in October 2023. The initial closing date for applications was 19 January 2024, later extended to 14 February 2024. The PICC reviewed 703 applications from various districts, approving 631 and disapproving 72. The list of registered schools was published in the Provincial Gazette on 13 May 2024.



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Table 01: Applications Overview

NO	DISTRICT	TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	APPLICATIONS APPROVED	APPLICATIONS DISAPPROVED
		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
1	CAPRICORN	141	76	65
2	MOPANI	65	65	Nil
3	SEKHUKHUNE	344	164	180
4	VHEMBE	35	34	1
5	WATERBERG	118	50	68
Grand Total	703	389	314	359

Upcoming Activities:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Scheduled for 28 May 2024.
- **Pre-Initiation Workshop:** To be held on 04 June 2024 in Polokwane.
- **Media Briefing:** Scheduled for 11 June 2024 at the Department of COGHSTA.

Plans and Interventions for Safe Initiation Practices:

1. Publication of a detailed list of registered initiation schools in the Provincial Gazette.
2. Training for principals, traditional surgeons, and caregivers in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Health.
3. Continuous monitoring of initiation schools from start to finish.
4. Submission of medical fitness certificates, consent forms, and birth certificates for all initiates before commencement.
5. Ensuring provision of food, shelter, and maintaining high health standards.
6. Allowing only registered medical doctors and experienced traditional surgeons to perform initiation rituals.
7. Restricting traditional rituals to qualified principals, surgeons, and caregivers.

4. CHALLENGES



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1. Overlapping jurisdictions between newly appointed and existing Senior Traditional Leaders.
2. Admission of underage children at initiation schools.
3. Mushrooming of illegal schools, particularly in the Sekhukhune District.
4. Incomplete consent forms from parents or legal guardians.
5. Overcrowding in some initiation schools.
6. Shortage of staff or monitors.

Despite these challenges, the Limpopo PICC is fully prepared for the 2024 initiation season.

For Media Inquiries and Interviews:

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Issued by: Office of COGHSTA MEC