



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

13 April 2021

### **MEC BOSHILO DISTURBED BY RECORDED INCIDENTS OF BULLYING AMONG LEARNERS**

Limpopo MEC for Education, Polly Boshielo has noted with concern the increasing number of reported bullying incidents in our schools involving our learners.

The department was this morning alerted to a shocking video recording of a female grade 10 learner being slapped around at Mbilwi Secondary School, in the Vhembe East education district. The incident took place yesterday, 12 April 2021. In the video Other learners can be heard in the background cheering the perpetrator, who is also a grade 10 female learner. The victimized learner is reported to have since passed away, however the cause of death is unknown. The department is awaiting a formal report on the cause from the relevant authorities.

The department has also noted another recording of a physical altercation incident involving grade 12 female learners from Nthuba High School making rounds on social media last week Friday. Details of this incident have been requested from the school principal on and due disciplinary processes will be undertaken immediately.

“It is quite disturbing to witness this level of violent behaviour among young people. We strongly condemn such conduct that has turned our schools into horrendous havens of those who have no regards for their peers. Bullying is wrong and will never be tolerated in our schools.

We send our condolences to the family and friends of the deceased learner and pledge our commitment towards ensuring that all those involved in bullying incidents are made to face the consequences of their actions.

It is important that we also capacitate our schools to strengthen enforcement of their code of conduct, especially on such incidents. Education is a societal matter, therefore putting the responsibility on all of us to ensure a safe learning and teaching environment” said MEC Boshielo.

The Limpopo Department of Education has appointed Learner Support Agents who are based in the 10 education districts across the province to offer emotional support to vulnerable learners. This is done in

conjunction with programmes offered by the School Safety, Learner Psychological Services and Life skills units. Processes are underway to intensify their interventions in high burden areas, based on reports received from circuit offices.

District psychosocial teams have been dispatched to the schools to attend to the affected learners.

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