



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

15 November 2024

Media Statement - For Immediate Release

TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

Stable condition for Learners from Dzumeri Primary School After Reported Incident of Foodborne Illness

The Limpopo Provincial Government is committed to the safety and well-being of learners and has taken swift action in response to the reported cases of possible foodborne illness at Dzumeri Primary School in the Mopani District on 14 November 2024.

Considering these developments, the MEC for Health, Ms Dieketseng Mashego, along with the MEC for Education, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, visited Nkhensani Hospital in Giyani and Dzumeri Primary School this morning, 15 November 2024, to assess the condition of the affected learners and ensure that appropriate measures are being implemented.

We are relieved to report that, out of the 11 learners who were kept for overnight observation, only three (3) will remain in the hospital. Medical professionals have confirmed that their condition is stable and they are receiving the necessary care, said MEC Mashego.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya emphasized the importance of prioritizing the health and safety of learners, stating: "We are here to ensure that the lives of our learners are protected. After our visit, we are confident that the situation at Dzumeri Primary School is under control, allowing schooling and examinations to continue without interruption."

"We want to further thank parents and members of the community who have been patient and allowed us to handle the situation. We also had an opportunity to allay their

fears with the report and help they received from the health workers," remarked MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

In response to this incident, the Provincial Government has since end of October 2024 intensified its campaign to ensure that food sold in proximity to schools and within communities is safe for consumption.

Mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality Cllr Thandi Zitha has confirmed that prior to the incident at Dzumeri Primary School, the SAPS and municipal teams conducted raids on various spaza shops, confiscating unsafe food items and apprehending individuals trading without the requisite documentation.

The provincial government says safety of learners remains its top priority and will continue to work diligently to prevent such incidents in the future. It urges parents and guardians to remain vigilant and to report any concerns regarding food safety in their communities.

For further updates, please stay tuned to official communication channels from the Limpopo Provincial Government.

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ndavhe Ramakuela
Provincial Government Spokesperson
082 200 5357 / 067 267 2063
Ramakuelan@premier.limpopo.gov.za

Thilivhali Muavha
Premier's Spokesperson
066 011 7034
MuavhaT@premier.limpopo.gov.za

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