



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

Media Statement

All media houses

For Immediate Release

13 December 2024

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The Limpopo Department of Education is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of two Grade 10 learners from the Vhembe East District who took their own lives. The two male learners who are both in Grade 10 from Mphaphuli High and Thohoyandou Technical School took their own lives after they failed to progress to Grade 11 next year.

MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya wishes to extend her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

"No words can adequately express the pain and grief that comes with losing a child. May you find strength and comfort in the memories you shared with your loved ones. Our hearts go out to the families, friends, and loved ones of these young individuals".

The learners, educators, and staff of the affected schools, are urged to seek support during this difficult time. Counselling services are available to help process emotions.

Parents and guardians are urged to rally behind their children in a supportive environment that promotes mental health and well-being. Learners struggling with suicidal thoughts must reach out to the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) helpline or the department's counselling services on the following contact details:

- SADAG Helpline: 0800 567 567

The Department's Psycho-Social team, working with colleagues from the Department of Social Development, will visit the affected families and learners to assist with counselling.

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