



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

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THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DISTANCES ITSELF FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NOMINATION AND RECOGNITION OF THE MATHEMATICS TEACHER.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education has become aware of the nomination and recognition of one of its educators in the Global Best Teacher Awards. The Department wishes to confirm that Mr Khangelani Sibiyi from Umbusowabathethwa High School in KwaMbonambi (King Cetshwayo District), is currently suspended from his duties following allegations of sexual harassment against him. It is alleged that the incidence's happened at the Mathematics Boot Camp, Mr Sibiyi was entrusted as one of the educators to teach the learners. For this reason the Department distances itself from the international nomination and recognition of Mr Sibiyi and does not support the nomination.

The allegations against Mr Sibiyi are serious more especially in the context of the rising occurrences of gender-based violence and related offences taking place in the country currently. A disciplinary process is underway and the latest hearing took place only last week. The matter is still ongoing and until such time, the Department wishes to distance itself from any accolades that may be awarded to Mr Sibiyi. It is also alleged that Mr Sibiyi who is referred to as "Babes we Maths" claimed to have a Doctorate and upon verification it was found that this was untrue.

Based on the above the Department views this as unethical to have him nominated and recognised. To this end, we have also alerted the South African Council of Educators (SACE) for further investigation. The Department remains committed to the protection of learners at all times. Today the Department launched the Policy on Prevention and Management of Teenage Pregnancy, and such allegation militates against such efforts.

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Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

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