



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To All Media

News Editors

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KZN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONDEMNS ALLEGATIONS OF EDUCATOR MISCONDUCT

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education has noted with grave concern recent reports alleging that two male educators at Thubalethu Secondary School in the Pinetown District have been molesting female learners. It is further alleged that the matter was reported by a community member to the School Governing Body (SGB), but no action has been taken to date.

The Department strongly condemns such abhorrent behaviour, which has no place in our schools, our communities, or our society. The protection, safety, and well-being of learners remain our highest priority. Any acts of abuse or misconduct by educators fundamentally undermine the trust, care, and responsibility that define the teaching profession.

The MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Siphon Hlomuka, has expressed his outrage at these reports and has directed that immediate action be taken. A team of investigators will be deployed to the affected school to establish the facts, strengthen accountability, and ensure that those found guilty face both the full consequences of the law and the Department's internal disciplinary processes.

“As the Department, we will not sit idle while the integrity of our schools is compromised and the safety of our learners is threatened. Any educator who abuses their position of trust must know that we will act decisively to remove them from the system and ensure they are held criminally accountable. The recent ELRC report indicates a high number of sexual offences occurred in KwaZulu-Natal.

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Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

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Schools are meant to be centres of learning, care, and growth - not spaces of fear. We are determined to maintain confidence in our education system and protect our children at all costs,” said MEC Mr. Siphon Hlomuka.

The Department reaffirms its unwavering commitment to creating safe learning environments across all schools in the province. We call upon learners, parents, teachers, and community members to break the silence by reporting any suspected cases of abuse. Reports may be made through the Department’s official channels or directly to law enforcement agencies, the South African Police Services.

The Department will not tolerate any violation of learners’ rights. Any educator who exploits their position of trust will be removed from the system and subjected to criminal prosecution without hesitation.

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