KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
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MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC HLOMUKA TAKES A FIRM STAND AGAINST ALLEGED DENIAL OF MATRIC LEARNERS' RIGHT TO WRITE EXAMINATIONS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Emmanuel Hlomuka, has expressed serious concern over reports of matric learners who were allegedly denied the opportunity to write their National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations at three schools in the province.

The reported incidents involve a learner from Thokozamnganga High School in eNtshongweni, under the Pinetown District, who was allegedly denied the opportunity to write her History examination last week for failing to attend extra classes held on a Saturday.

At Shallcross Secondary School, under the uMlazi District, six learners were allegedly denied the opportunity to write their Mathematics Literacy Paper 1 examination on the grounds that their performance could compromise the school's target of achieving a 100% pass rate.

This follows the incident that was reported at Ntwenhle High School, where a learner was allegedly denied the opportunity to write the Accounting examination.

MEC Hlomuka has condemned the reported incidents, emphasising that no learner should be denied the opportunity to write an examination as a punitive measure or because of concerns about the school's overall pass rate.

"The denial of an opportunity to write an examination is a serious matter that cannot be taken lightly. Extra classes are intended to provide additional academic support to learners and must never be used as a punitive measure that compromises their right to complete their examinations.

"No learner should be made to feel that their future is at risk because they did not attend an extra class or because they may not achieve a distinction. Every learner deserves a fair opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities during examinations," said MEC Hlomuka.

The MEC has confirmed that the Department will conduct investigations into all the reported incidents to establish the circumstances surrounding the allegations and determine the appropriate action to be taken.

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

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The Department will prioritise the provision of appropriate support to help restore the affected learners' confidence and emotional well-being, ensuring that they are able to continue writing their examinations in a supportive environment.

MEC Hlomuka has reiterated that schools must uphold the principles of fairness, professionalism and learner dignity throughout the examination period. School performance targets must never be prioritised at the expense of learners' educational rights and well-being.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education remains committed to protecting the interests of all learners and ensuring that the NSC examination process is conducted with integrity, fairness and respect for every candidate.

Where the investigations establish that misconduct has occurred, the Department will take appropriate internal disciplinary action against those found responsible, in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.

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