

## **TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS**

### **FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**14 MAY 2025**

#### **THE DEPARTMENT STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE ALLEGED RAPE INCIDENT AT PLATORAND SPECIAL SCHOOL**

The Mpumalanga Department of Education has learnt about the alleged sexual assault incident of a learner that took place in one of its schools at Emakhazeni Local Municipality namely, Platorand Special School.

The information received by the Department is that the said incident happened during the Schools' Choir Competitions on 08 May 2025.

The Department has since deployed official to conduct internal investigations, provide the psychosocial support to the victim and her family and ensure that action is taken to those who were involved in this incident.

The Department appreciates the swift action from the police.

The Department condemns in the strongest possible terms any form of harassment, including sexual assault and will take appropriate action to send a clear message that such conduct cannot tolerated.

The Department urges parents, school communities and teachers not to hesitate to report any such incidents to the relevant authorities.

The MEC for Education, Ms Cathy Dlamini condemned the incident and has expressed her appreciation to the South African Police for their swift response in ensuring the arrest of the alleged perpetrator and the initiation of an investigation into the matter.

The Department will closely monitor the situation.

Inquiries:

Jasper Zwane

Cell: 083 743 1804

Email: [j.zwane@mpuedu.gov.za](mailto:j.zwane@mpuedu.gov.za)

Gerald Sambo

Cell: 081 526 7802

Email: [g.sambo@mpuedu.gov.za](mailto:g.sambo@mpuedu.gov.za)