education
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Mpumalanga Department of Education
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TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALIST

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

22 OCTOBER 2026

MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUSPENDS PRINCIPAL OF KHANGELA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Mpumalanga Department of Education confirms that it has placed the Principal of Khangela Primary School on precautionary suspension with immediate effect, following his arrest by the South African Police Service on allegations of sexual assault involving an 11-year-old Grade 6 learner.

This action has been taken in accordance with the Employment of Educators Act and is intended to protect the integrity of the investigation, safeguard the wellbeing of learners, and ensure that teaching and learning continue in a safe and stable environment.

The School Management Team and the School Governing Body have been formally informed, and arrangements are underway for the appointment of an Acting Principal.

The Department condemns any form of abuse, harassment or sexual violence against learners in the strongest possible terms. Schools must be safe havens for learning and development, and the Department maintains a zero-tolerance approach to any form of sexual misconduct by its employees.

Any official found to have violated the trust placed in them will face both the full disciplinary process of the Department and the criminal justice system.

The wellbeing of the affected learner remains our foremost priority. The Department will deploy officials from Inclusive Education, including psychologists and social workers, to render the necessary psychosocial support to the learner and her family, as well as to classmates and educators who may be affected by this deeply distressing incident.

This support will continue for as long as it is needed. The Department commends law enforcement agencies for their swift and professional response in ensuring that the alleged perpetrator was apprehended and will continue to fully cooperate with the criminal investigation.

In line with standard procedure, the Department has also instituted its own internal investigation and will refer the matter to the South African Council for Educators.

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We appeal to the school community and members of the public to remain calm and to allow the law to take its course, while respecting the rights and dignity of the child.

To protect the minor and to comply with the Children's Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, we urge everyone to refrain from sharing the learner's name, photographs or any information that may lead to her identification on any public platform.

The Department remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that all schools in the province are safe, protective and conducive to learning, and encourages learners, parents and educators to report any form of abuse to the school, the district office, the Department's toll-free line or directly to SAPS.

As the matter is now before the court, the Department will not be commenting further on the merits of the case.

ENDS
Issued by the Mpumalanga Department of Education

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