



Minister Buti Manamela  
Minister of Higher Education and Training

Department of Higher Education and Training  
123 Francis Baard  
Pretoria Central  
Pretoria  
0002

2 February 2026

Dear Minister Manamela,

I trust this letter reaches you well.

I am writing to you following an oversight visit of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training to the Capricorn TVET College in Polokwane on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2026.

Please see context in this link: <https://x.com/i/status/2016535183353143723>

During this oversight visit, it was revealed to the Portfolio Committee that the institution had a sexual harassment case involving a female student (complainant) and a male tutor appointed by the institution's council (respondent). The Portfolio Committee was informed that the case was investigated and concluded with findings of guilt on the part of the respondent, which the respondent admitted to. The Portfolio Committee was also informed that the sanctions imposed by the institution to the respondent were merely a one-month suspension period and a written warning.

I interrogated the motivation for such a lenient approach by the institution. In response, the Principal and Accounting Officer of this institution, Mr Lekau Mamabolo, made it clear to the Portfolio Committee that he did not seek recourse beyond the investigation recommendations to align the institution with the 2020 Department of Higher Education and Training GBV Policy Framework which declares zero tolerance to sexual harassment within the PSET sector. This is the case even though Section 158(1)(h) of the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995 affords the Principal the right and freedom to do so.

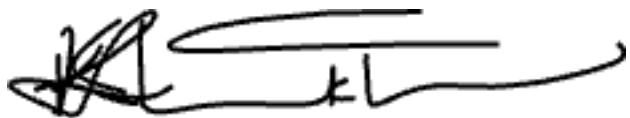
The Principal further informed the Portfolio Committee that had the victim been his own daughter, he would have handled the matter differently, with more compassion and energy to root out the perpetrator from all fabrics of the institution. This too indicates the Principal's deviation from the codes and responsibilities outlined in your department's policy framework.

The Principal's outlook on GBV and all acts of sexual harassment poses a serious safety risk for all students and employees within the institution. It also indicates that under his leadership, there is no appetite for the institution to apply the 2022 Progress Report on Gender Transformation Investigations in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges compiled by the South African Commission for Gender Equality and its recommendations.

Minister, it serves the sector and Republic no good to have a Principal whose attitude towards dealing with sexual harassment and GBV in his institution is inconsistent with your department's policy framework.

I am, therefore, writing to you to request an immediate investigation into how this and all sexual harassment cases reported at the Capricorn TVET College were and are handled by the Principal, Mr Lekau Mamabolo.

Yours in public service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Khakhau".

Karabo Khakhau, MP  
DA Member of Higher Education and Training Portfolio Committee  
RSA National Assembly