



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Bongane Sibisi
Ref: 5. ED161

**TO: LINDA MWALE
ACTING SECRETARY TO THE LEGISLATURE**

**FROM: MR. M K CHILOANE
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION**

SUBJECT: QUESTION POSED BY THE LEGISLATURE QUESTION 5. ED161

PURPOSE:

Regarding allegations and misconduct involving the principal of Hoërskool Waterkloof, could the MEC please indicate:

QUESTION 1:

Has the Gauteng Department of Education received any police reports or been informed of any criminal charges laid against the principal of Hoërskool Waterkloof, Mr Chris Denysschen, in relation to allegations of inappropriate conduct or financial mismanagement?

ANSWER:

The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) was informed by the parents regarding the allegations of inappropriate conduct of the school principal and they also indicated that have opened a case with the South African Police Services (SAPS).The GDE has not received any report from SAPS regarding the allegations. No reports have been submitted to the GDE regarding the financial mismanagement.

QUESTION 2:

Has the Department complied with the Protocol for the Management and Reporting of Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools (DBE, 2019) and the Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Sexual Violence and Harassment in Public Schools in its handling of this matter?

ANSWER:

The Department has complied with the Protocol for the Management and Reporting of Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools (DBE, 2019) and the Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Sexual Violence and Harassment in Public Schools in its handling of this matter.

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QUESTION 3:

If yes to the above, please provide a detailed breakdown of the steps taken in accordance with these frameworks?

ANSWER:

The protocol enables educators and employees to identify, intervene, report and provide support to all learners and school staff who are sexually abused or harassed in school, whilst offering an appropriate response to perpetrators of sexual abuse and harassment. The GDE through the Education Support Branch offered psychosocial support to the affected learners. The Principal was placed on precautionary transfer and the disciplinary hearing is being held as an inquiry by arbitrator (IBA). The principal has been charged with improper misconduct in terms of Section 18(1)(q). A police case was opened by the parents and the safety of learners is ensured through the suspension of the alleged perpetrator.

QUESTION 4:

If no to question (2), please explain why the Department did not comply with these guidelines?

ANSWER:

Please refer to (2) above.

QUESTION 5:

How many formal complaints or reports has the Department received from educators, learners, parents, or guardians against the principal since 2022?

ANSWER

The GDE has received 7 formal Complaints around September 2024 which all are for the same issue of inappropriate conduct. It must be noted that of the 7 complaints only 2 are willing to testify and others want their identity to be undisclosed due to personal reasons.

QUESTION 6:

Is it true that an 18-year-old learner at the school impregnated a 15-year-old learner?

ANSWER

The GDE has no record of a case reported to the Department regarding an issue of 18-year-old learner at the school impregnating a 15-year-old learner.

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QUESTION 7:

Was the matter reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS) in terms of Section 54 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 and Section 110 of the Children's Act, 2005, which require any person who becomes aware of a sexual offence against a child to report it immediately?

ANSWER:

Please refer to (6) above.

QUESTION 8:

It has been alleged that a learner who lodged a confidential complaint with the IDSO and Circuit Manager was later exposed, as a number of educators and learners were made aware that she had laid the complaint. How did this breach of confidentiality occur, and what steps has the Department taken in response?

ANSWER

Please refer to (6) above.

Kind Regards



MR. M K CHILOANE, MPL
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

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