

**To: All media**

**For immediate attention**

**Date: 6 April 2016**

**Department urges parents to take responsibility for their children**

The Department of Education has learnt with dismay that the parents of learners who were relocated from Mpepule Primary School and allocated spaces in local schools in Shongoana area have taken their kids to Klein-Rustenburg accommodation with a view to disrupt government plans. Klein-Rustenburg is a facility used to accommodate 28 learners from Mpepule and Hoopdaal Schools following the closing of their schools as they were exposing them to poor teaching and learning environment. Learners were also exposed to dangerous animals from local game farms.

Dropping children illegally at the accommodation is viewed as part of negligence to own children and abandoning of the responsibility. The decision to close the two schools was taken in the interest and for the benefit of the learners. The Department cannot allow to be held at ransom by parents who are eager to deny their children the Right of Education.

It is in this regard that the Department of Education is involving relevant Departments including the Social Development and South African Police (SAPS) to intervene in the interest of the learners. These parents are urged to work with the government departments to make sure teaching and learning does not get disrupted and the living conditions of their children are conducive for learning.

**Issued by Communication Services**

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