



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

17th January 2017

Limpopo Provincial Government condemn Violent Protest

The Provincial Government condemn the violent activities that have characterized the protest for a tarred road in the areas of Tshitale and Nthabalala. The torching of schools and Government offices cannot be justified as a protest but they are just criminal activities and it's upon the communities in the area to work with the Police in ensuring the speedy arrests of criminal elements which have hijacked their genuine protest.

We are also calling upon the South African Police services to work day and night in ensuring that the culprits are brought to book. "We can't in any way tolerate the culture of burning schools whenever Service Delivery challenges are experienced. A strong message should be send to those who are thinking of engaging in his type of activities. We are always ready to work with our communities to find amicable solutions to their issues.

Government does not have unlimited resources to repair such damaged infrastructure, and even if we had we will not priorities infrastructure that was deliberately destroyed by people in the name of peaceful protest. This tendencies are reducing our efforts to meaningless activities hence will not be tolerated.

We are equally condemning the use of school children as bargaining tools during community protests. The South African Schools act defines the disruption of schools as a criminal activity and Government will not hesitate to open cases with the South African Police Services against community leaders who believes that the strength of protests is dependent on schools disruptions.

Schools have that been torched or damaged during these protests will remain the responsibilities of the communities. Our view is that those who destroy or allow criminal elements to destroy their schools during protest will not be prioritized but will be the last on our priority list. If we have 200 schools to refurbish, such as school will become number 201.

Those who continue to destroy schools will be held liable for refurbishing and rebuilding of such infrastructure.

Issued by

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