

**\*MEDIA STATEMENT\***

**\*To all reporters and editors\***

Date: 14th August 2022

**\*SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MEC WARNS PARENTS AFTER TWO CHILDREN DROWN IN SESHEGO.\***

The MEC for Social Development, Dr. Namane Dickson Masemola, has added his voice to that of Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt. Genl. Thembi Hadebe, who warned parents and guardians to always know where their children are and not to let them engage in activities that are potentially dangerous. This after two boys drowned in the Seshego dam in Zone 4, yesterday.

According to police reports, Kotsema Ramaru (9) and Kubu Mashilo (12) from Zone 5 were swimming in the dam yesterday and crossing deeper parts with makeshift flotation devices. Their homemade “boat” capsized and both boys drowned.

The SA Police Search and Rescue unit managed to retrieve one of the boys’ lifeless bodies yesterday and the search for the second body continues today.

“We reiterate our call to parents of especially young children to not leave them unsupervised or unattended”, says Dr. Namane Dickson Masemola. “We are gradually experiencing warmer weather and soon the rainy season will start and children will want to engage in swimming activities. It is, however, not safe to negotiate deep and murky water like dams, even for children and adults who are strong swimmers.

Children who are left alone even for a few hours, even at home, will engage in potentially dangerous activities because of their natural curiosity and energy.

Furthermore, the unfortunate reality is that there are sexual

predators and other evil doers lurking around in our communities, waiting for small children moving around alone. We simply cannot let our children roam the streets without some adult supervision”, MEC Masemola continues.

“Our deepest condolences to the families of the two children. Our social workers will again be dispatched to offer counselling and support. May the souls of Kotsema and Kubu rest in peace.”

End.

Issued by the Department's Communications Unit.

For enquiries, kindly contact Adèle van der Linde on 071-301-8527.