



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Media statement

09 July 2024

### For Immediate Release

#### **Premier Dr Ramathuba assures learners from Mopani East schools after vandalism and arson in their schools.**

Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has expressed deep concern over the recent incidents of vandalism and arson that have affected several schools in the Mopani East District. The Limpopo Provincial government is committed to working closely with law enforcement agencies to ensure that those responsible for these criminal acts are brought to justice and face the full consequences of the law, she said.

Dr Ramathuba emphasised, "We will not tolerate such criminal activity in our schools, and we will take all necessary measures to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future."

The Premier reassured the community, parents and learners that every effort will be made to restore the damaged schools to their former state promptly. The government will spare no effort in repairing the damages, replacing stolen equipment, and providing additional support to the affected learners to ensure they can continue their education without disruption.

Addressing the affected learners directly, Premier Dr Ramathuba stated, "We stand in solidarity with you during this challenging time. Together, we will overcome this adversity and ensure that our education system remains resilient, enabling you to thrive."

The recent fire at Gidela Secondary School on 05 July 2024 resulted in the destruction of furniture and equipment, while neighbouring primary schools such as Pembelani, Ha-Aka, and Noblehoek were targeted by criminals who stole valuable tablets and laptops.

Accompanied by the MEC for Education, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya and other local officials including Cllr Basani Shivambu from the Greater Giyani Municipality and Hosi Msengi BJ of the Msengi Traditional Council, Premier Ramathuba conducted an inspection of the vandalised schools to assess the extent of the damage.

Vandalism poses a significant threat to the educational infrastructure and the right of learners to quality education in the Mopani East District.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya assured parents and learners that the setback caused by these criminal acts is temporary and that efforts are underway to overcome the challenges posed by the theft of essential learning materials.

Despite the disruptions, learning and teaching resumed in all affected schools as learners returned for the third term of the academic year, demonstrating the resilience and determination of the education community in Mopani East District.

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