

MEDIA STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO ALL NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

RE: LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT STRONGLY CONDEMNS WITHDRAWAL OF LIMPOPO TEAM FROM NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Limpopo Provincial Government has expressed its deepest disappointment following the unexpected withdrawal of the Limpopo Team from the National Secondary Schools Championship held in Bloemfontein from 02 to 06 April 2025.

In response to this alarming incident, the Provincial Government has instituted a comprehensive investigation to uncover the circumstances surrounding this decision.

On 05 April 2025, the Limpopo team announced their withdrawal due to a series of unacceptable factors that impeded their learners' ability to compete effectively. Most notably, reports indicated that the young athletes had endured long hours of travel, only to arrive in Bloemfontein to find that their accommodation arrangements were grossly insufficient. The shocking reality that some teams were placed as far away as Kimberley was simply intolerable and unacceptable.

"We have received outrage from parents and educators alike regarding the deplorable conditions that our learners and team managers faced during what should have been a prestigious event. This is not merely an isolated incident; it is a blatant pattern of negligence that we can no longer condone. We will not stand by while our youth are subjected to such inhumane treatment," said Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba.

Premier went further to say: "We cannot tolerate this any further. It is imperative that we conduct a thorough probe to identify the root causes of this situation. Our learners deserve better and we are committed to finding solutions to ensure that such incidents do not recur."

The investigation will encompass both the Department of Education and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture to ascertain accountability for this egregious oversight. The province is resolute in its commitment to holding those responsible accountable for their actions.

The investigation team has been tasked with concluding its findings and recommendations within one month.

The Limpopo Provincial Government remains steadfast in its commitment to the welfare of its learners and will do everything in its power to protect their rights and ensure they receive the quality experiences they are entitled to.

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

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