



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

21 June 2026

TO: ALL MEDIA

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DISTANCES ITSELF FROM FAKE PERMISSION LETTER FOR INITIATION SCHOOLS IN 2026

The Limpopo Provincial Government has noted with deep concern the circulation of a fraudulent letter dated 19 June 2026, falsely purporting to have been issued by the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, granting permission to certain initiation schools to operate in the 2026 season.

The Provincial Government wishes to place it on record, in the clearest and strongest terms, that this letter is fake, fraudulent and that the purported Premier's signature and date are falsified; tantamounts to forgery and uttering.

The fake letter has not been issued by the Premier or by the Office of the Premier under any circumstances. The stationery and signature used in the document have been forged, and the Provincial Government distances itself entirely from this malicious act.

The fake letter is particularly reckless because it seeks to mislead communities, undermine lawful processes and create confusion in a highly sensitive matter that requires discipline, consultation and adherence to established legal and traditional procedures.

It must be stressed that the Limpopo Province Initiation Coordination Committee (PICC) is the first point of contact for all applications relating to initiation schools. Where applications do not meet the required criteria and are therefore declined, applicants may follow the official appeal process. Such appeals are considered on a case-by-case basis and not through blanket approval letters issued to multiple institutions.

The Premier does not issue general permission letters to initiation schools, senior traditional leaders, kingships, principals, or any group of institutions in this manner. Any claim to the contrary is false and deliberately designed to subvert the agreed principles governing the establishment and operation of initiation schools in Limpopo.

The Provincial Government therefore warns all individuals or entities currently operating, or preparing to operate, initiation schools because of this fake letter that they are doing

so unlawfully and at their own risk. Appropriate action will be taken against anyone found to be violating the law or exploiting this fraudulent document.

Furthermore, the Limpopo Provincial Government will work with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and other relevant law-enforcement authorities to trace the origin of the forged letter, identify those responsible for falsifying the Premier's signature and hold them accountable for abusing the name of the Provincial Government and misleading the public.

The Provincial Government urges all traditional leaders, communities, parents and initiation school principals to verify any communication through official government channels before acting on it. Members of the public are reminded that official notices are only valid when issued through recognised government platforms.

The Limpopo Provincial Government remains committed to protecting the integrity of the initiation process, upholding the law, and ensuring the safety, dignity, and cultural rights of all participants.

END/

Media enquiries:

Ndavhe Ramakuela
Provincial Government Spokesperson
082 200 5357

Thilivhali Muavha
Spokesperson to the Premier
066 011 7034

ISSUED BY THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT