



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
**CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**For Immediate Release**

**To: All Media Houses**

**DATE: 23 JULY 2026**

### **MEC MAKAMU WELCOMES THE CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL INITIATION SCHOOLS IN THE SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT**

The MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Basikopo Makamu, welcomes the closure of seven(7) initiation schools which were operating illegally, in the Sekhukhune District. Four(4) Female initiation schools with one hundred and twenty seven(127) initiates, and three(3) male initiation schools with one hundred and fifteen(115) initiates continued to operate beyond the official closing date. All customary initiation schools in Limpopo had until 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026 to close. Acting on a tip off, officials from COGHSTA, in collaboration with the South African Police Service pounced on these schools on Wednesday, 22 July 2026, around Nebo, in the Hlogotlou Policing Area.

“Continuing to run initiation schools beyond the stipulated period is a violation of the law. We commend the swift action by SAPS and our monitors.” Said MEC Makamu.

The July 19<sup>th</sup> deadline was reached in consultation with the Department of Education, to accommodate the commencement of the third quarter of the 2026 academic year. “It is clear that the owners of these schools have no regard for the education of initiates who are still attending school. This is totally unacceptable and government has to act in the best interest of these learners.” Added MEC Makamu.

Some of the initiates were reunited with their parents, while those staying far were taken to traditional surgeons and are expected to be reunited with their families during the course of today(Thursday, 23 July 2026). Meanwhile the monitoring teams will continue investigating non-compliant initiation schools around the Sekhukhune District and the rest of the Province. The department continues to call on communities to remain vigilant against initiation schools which are not operating within the regulations and also to report them to authorities, including the SAPS as well as Traditional leadership.

**END.**

**Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs**

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