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MEDIA RELEASE
TO ALL MEDIA

PREMIER WELCOMES DECISION TO UPHOLD RESTRICTION OF INITIATION SCHOOLS IN BOLOBEDU

The Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has welcomed the decision of the Polokwane High Court to dismiss an application seeking to overturn her refusal of permits for 13 initiation schools in the Bolobedu area.

The application, brought before the Polokwane High Court by Queen Masalanabo Modjadji VII of the Balobedu on 30 June 2026, sought to review and set aside the Premier's earlier decision to withdraw permits that were issued. However, the High Court struck the matter from the roll on the basis of lack of urgency and ordered that each party pay its own costs.

Premier Dr Ramathuba said that after carefully considering the 13 permits issued by the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) in 2026, as well as the appeal from traditional leaders in Bolobedu that the 2025 decision not to allow initiation schools in the area should remain in place, she found that the conditions identified in 2025 had not materially changed.

"As the provincial government, we have great respect for the Queenship and have continuously supported her. This matter required us to be sober and consistent in the application of the law," said the Premier Dr Ramathuba.

"We are pleased that arrangements have been made for initiates to attend recognised initiation schools," Premier Dr Ramathuba added.

Limpopo has over 720 of initiation schools, male and female, that have been approved to operate from 19 June 2026 to 19 July 2026.

The Office of the Premier reiterates its commitment to upholding the law, respecting traditional leadership and ensuring that cultural practices are conducted in a manner that prioritises safety, dignity and compliance with relevant regulations.

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