



MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

FROM: EC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATED: 02 JULY 2022

MEC GADE CONDEMNS THE INDECENT BEHAVIOUR OF MARIA LOUW LEARNERS'S BEHAVIOUR

The Eastern Cape department of Education MEC, Fundile Gade condemns with the strongest terms the recent indecent behaviour of three Mario Louw high (boys) learners who allegedly gang raped a fellow 13 year old Grade 8 girl learner inside the school's hostel .

This incident is currently receiving a support from both the departments of Education and Health respectively. A social workers has been assigned by the department to assist the victim and the family during this period.

Currently, the victim is getting all the necessary support and counselling at Frontier hospital where she is also assisted by their social worker upon referral by the department.

A case was opened with the local police station and the police and the boys were arrested and released on bail. Internally the department has also opened a case against the alleged perpetrators and as such there is a pending disciplinary hearing against them.

Since the matter is very sensitive, the department is closely monitoring it and getting constant updates on the progress linking up closely with the social worker and the family. MEC Gade, would like to caution all the boys who behave lewdly at school that such incidents would not be tolerated.

"As the department we will always side with the victim as such we are doing everything in our power to support the family and the victim. We are trying to speed up our investigation while methodically combing through the critical information and observing the law at the same time" said Gade.

"We shall make sure that justice is served for the victim. Additionally, we are observing that there's a new pandemic emerging in our societies. This pandemic is manifesting itself through either a boy child raping other fellow women students or the extraordinary extreme two scenarios that of a male teacher raping or having an affair with the girl child or a women teacher having a relationship with a boy child both of these two are straight dismissal offenses should you be found guilty so be warned".

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