

19 JANUARY 2026

MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING TRAGIC ACCIDENT INVOLVING LEARNERS IN THE VAAL

The Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube, has learned with deep sadness of a tragic motor vehicle accident that occurred this morning involving a vehicle transporting learners to school, in which several learners lost their lives.

The Minister extends her heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families, friends, classmates, and school communities of the learners who perished in this devastating incident. She further conveys her wishes for strength and comfort to all those affected during this profoundly difficult time.

The Minister was personally informed by MEC for Education in Gauteng, Mr Matome Chilloane, that he is attending to the matter, together with relevant authorities and emergency services. The MEC will continue to keep the Minister informed as more details become available.

The Department of Basic Education stands ready to provide psychosocial support to affected learners, educators, and families, in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Education.

As investigations into the cause of the accident continue, the Minister urges motorists to exercise extreme caution, particularly during peak school transport hours, and reiterates the importance of ensuring the safety and roadworthiness of all vehicles used to transport learners. Further updates will be communicated as information is confirmed.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

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