

To Editors/Reporters

15 August 2018

**MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION AFTER A
REPORT BACK BRIEFING SESSION REGARDING THE STATUS OF INITIATION
SCHOOLS IN THE GAUTENG PROVINCE.**

Today the CRL Rights Commission convened a report back meeting on the status of initiation schools in the Gauteng Province. The meeting was attended by the following stakeholders: Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Sedibeng, West Rand Municipalities, the following Gauteng Provincial departments – COGTA, Social Development, South African Police Services and the Gauteng Provincial Coordinating Team.

The purpose of this report back meeting was to ascertain as to how far the stakeholders have progressed in implementing the CRL Rights Commission's resolution to suspend initiation activities in the province following its report on the investigations into causes and challenges that led to deaths at Initiation schools.

The Commission's report made the following recommendations:

1. That all the initiation activities in the entire Gauteng Province be suspended until December 2018. (This meant that there shall be no initiation related activity happening in the whole of 2018. The initiation activities shall only start in June 2019)
2. That all municipalities in Gauteng that are giving out permits for the operation of Initiation schools, should use this time of suspension to ensure that they comply with the requirements as reflected below:
3. That they identify, designate and resource a proper site or sites where initiation activities should take place.

4. They put together a database of medical professionals to examine the initiates before a permit can be issued.
5. Ensure that the Gauteng COGTA monitoring team knows the exact location of designated sites in each municipality.
6. The monitoring team will be required to provide a comprehensive report after each season to all municipalities and other relevant stake holders.
7. Water tanks and other related resources have been provided to the Initiation Schools.
8. Parental/Guardian consent letters should be obtained beforehand.
9. A proof of medical screening for each initiate has been provided.
10. Those Initiates between the ages of 16 and 18 years are to fill in the form as provided for in the Children's Act, no 38 of 2005.
11. A certificate or letter signed by the respective King or recognized traditional leader will be required.
12. Medication for chronic illnesses should be allowed.
13. Files with the details of each initiate should be put together by each initiation school owners for inspection by the monitoring team.
14. No police station is allowed to issue any permit.

The meeting noted that there has been progress at Ekurhuleni, Tshwane, West Rand and Sedibeng Municipalities in identifying some pockets of land at which initiation activities will take place.

The most disturbing issues reported about at this meeting included;

- The continued kidnapping and abduction of children to illegal initiation schools outside of the Gauteng Province
- The ongoing criminal activities disguised as initiation activities at Orange.

- The unwillingness of some police stations to enforce the laws, especially when cases of missing children have been reported.
- The unwillingness of the City of Johannesburg Municipality to work with other stakeholders to stop these criminal activities, especially in areas such as Orange Farm, Walkerville, Crown Mines and Ennerdale. The CRL Rights Commission will be paying special attention to the City of Joburg to ensure compliance and enforcement of the suspension resolution.
- The daring attitude of some operators of these illegal initiation schools who behave as though they are above the law.

The CRL Rights Commission has urged all the stakeholders to fully implement the Commission's resolution to suspend and for the police to enforce the law without fail.

The Commission will be having a further follow up meeting to evaluate progress before the current suspension can be lifted.

Issued by CRL Rights Commission

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