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LEGISLATURE

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**MEDIA  
STATEMENT**


TO: ALL MEDIA  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: 6 NOVEMBER 2024

### GAUTENG LEGISLATURE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION CONCERNED OVER RISING CASES OF FOOD POISONING AMONG LEARNERS

The Portfolio Committee on Education in the Gauteng Legislature has noted with grave concern the increasing cases of food poisoning affecting learners across the province. In a recent visit to families in Katlehong, the Chairperson of the Committee, Moipone Mhlongo, expressed heartfelt condolences and support for families impacted by these tragic incidents.

Two young siblings from the Xaba family, aged 6 and 9, recently lost their lives due to suspected food poisoning after allegedly consuming snacks purchased from a local spaza shop. Both children were learners at Sonqoba Primary School in Katlehong. This devastating incident underscores the urgent need for enhanced food safety measures in and around our schools.

The Portfolio Committee holds a firm view that food sales within school premises should be temporarily suspended until it is clear where the sources of danger originate. Chairperson Mhlongo urges parents not to provide lunch money to learners but instead to prepare meals for them at home. Additionally, the Committee calls upon School Governing Bodies (SGBs) to actively monitor and regulate food vendors operating within schools.



Chairperson Mhlongo emphasized, “We call on the Department of Education to implement a registration process for all food vendors in schools to ensure strict compliance with food safety regulations.”

The Portfolio Committee further calls on all relevant education stakeholders, including community members, to work collaboratively to address and prevent this growing concern. The Committee is committed to working tirelessly alongside the community and school authorities to protect the health and safety of our learners.

**ISSUED BY THE GPL’S COMMUNICATION UNIT ON BEHALF OF CHAIRPERSON OF  
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HON MOIPONE MHLONGO**

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