

**TO : THE NEWS EDITORS**

**FROM : THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**DATE : 13 JUNE 2012**

**SUBJECT : DEPARTMENT CONDEMNS CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS**

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The Mpumalanga Department of Education has noted with shock the allegations of corporal punishment leading to the death of a learner in one of the schools at Ehlanzeni District.

The South African Schools Act no 84 of 1996 prohibits the use of corporal punishment and clearly states that no person shall administer it at a school to any learner and that anyone who inflicts it contravenes this act and shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a sentence which could be imposed for assault.

The Department has appointed the Director for Labour Relations, Mr Willie Kutumela to lead an investigation into this matter and to present a full report to the Head of Department by 22 June 2012.

The Department will at the same time conduct counselling to learners and all persons who have been disturbed by this regrettable development.

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule has expressed her condolences to the bereaved family and promised to get to the bottom of this matter.

**End**

Issued by the Communication Directorate

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