



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**MEDIA STATEMENT
For Immediate Release
Thursday, 14 May 2026**

MEC VIOLET MATHYE EXPRESSES DEEP SADNESS FOLLOWING TRAGIC MINIBUS-TAXI FIRE THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF TWO SCHOOL CHILDREN IN MASEMOLA.

MEC for Department of Transport and Community Safety, Violet Mathye, has expressed deep sadness following a tragic learner transport fire incident in Masemola under the Sekhukhune District, which claimed the lives of two school children and left seven others injured.

The incident occurred on Wednesday, 13 May 2026, at approximately 15:30 on gravel road D4246 between Apel and Gankoana village towards Dithabaneng village under the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Ward 28.

Preliminary reports indicate that a Toyota Quantum minibus taxi transporting learners from Mannyetha Primary School caught fire while transporting learners from school to their respective homes. The exact cause of the incident is still under investigation.

The driver has been arrested in connection with the incident, and police investigations are continuing.

MEC Mathye conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wished the injured learners a speedy recovery.

“We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of young lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with the affected families, the school community, and all those impacted by this painful incident. We also wish the injured learners a speedy recovery,” said MEC Mathye.

The Department will continue to work closely with South African Police Service and other relevant stakeholders as investigations continue.

Issued by the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety.

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Ends.

