

## **MEC Lehari's administration apologises to schools for birth control injections**

**MAHIKENG MAIL – MAHIKENG:** The North West Department of Health has reflected on the incident of birth control injection of learners for prevention of pregnancy at Pitso-Letlhogile Secondary School at Phaposane near Ganyesa.

In a statement this week, the education department said that although the incident was carried out with good intentions by it's Sub-District, it did not sit well with the parents and the affected learners.

"The Department admits that there should have been thorough consultation on the matter particularly with all affected parties including the Department of Education, the School Management and the parents.

"The Department commends the oversight role of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development on this matter.

"The manner in which the activity was carried out is regrettable since it left learners feeling that their rights particularly the right to human dignity and the right to privacy were infringed. The Department admit that both parents and learners' consent should have been thoroughly sought, agreed to and consent forms signed. The Department therefore apologises to all the parties involved including the community and particularly the parents and learners.

In the light of the importance of the school health programme on healthy lifestyles, teenage pregnancy and substance abuse, the Department will endeavor to heighten education and awareness around these issues in the new financial year to avoid any future misunderstanding among all stakeholders affected.

"Once more the Department apologises to all the parties affected including the community and particularly the parents and learners, the statement read.