



PRESS RELEASE

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Redhill Principal in the spotlight as Al Jama-ah raises concerns against principal for his attempts at stifling the voices of Pro Palestinian learners, staff and parents

Following concerns and enquiries raised by Al Jama-ah MP Honourable Ganief Hendricks to the Minister of Basic Education on what steps will be taken and position of the Department surrounding the Redhill School Principal instruction to parents and staff not to allow learners to discuss and/or debate the latest Israeli-Palestinian fighting at school and in which the specified principal threatens to take further action in line with the school's Code of Conduct should anyone overstep the specified instruction

Further, whether the Department would issue a directive to all educational institutions to refrain from issuing threats to learners, parents and teachers who wish to address any crisis involving humanitarian matters; if not, what is the position in this regard.

It is duly noted that according to the written response of Minister Angie Motshekga of the Department of Education:

The Department deemed it not yet necessary for the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to take any steps against the Principal until the Gauteng Department of Education, through its relevant Education District authority, has had an opportunity to interact with the School Principal to provide proper hearing on how the standpoint of the Code of Conduct at the school on such matters has been interpreted.

The Provincial Department and District Office would be advised ahead of time of their interaction with the School Principal, to clarify with the School Principal the fundamentals of the DBE Human Rights Education programme offering, in raising awareness among learners, regarding constitutional imperatives; as well as violence and crimes against humanity.





Thereafter, the necessary adjustments and modifications would follow, which could include further clarification in the provisions in the Code of Conduct, or retraction of the instruction by the Principal where violation is detected.

In response to Hendricks' question on what steps the Department would take to prevent similar actions from happening at schools, the Minister replied: "It is duly noted that the Department will be extending an invitation to all Provincial Departments and schools to participate in the Oral History, Moot Court, and Youth Citizen Action programmes, where such matters are safely discussed and debated, to support the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) existing provisions in Social Sciences, Lifeskills and Life Orientation."

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