



## MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

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### MEC Dr Motlhabane calls for peaceful protests

Bokone Bophirima Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Motlhabane calls for peaceful protests in the province and the country at large. This follows a number of protests that have been reported in the province. Yesterday in Lehurutshe hundreds of learners were left stranded on their first day of school reopening for the last term of their 2016 schooling year when the roads were closed by protesters making it impossible for learners to access their taxi and bus transport.

Some learners were offloaded from taxis and prevented from going to school.

“This is so frustrating because some of us we are supposed to write a test for final preparatory examinations. They are so cruel, how can they just destroy our future like this. Denying us education like this won’t give them water,” said one of the stranded learners from Ramotshere Secondary School.

The protest still continues and the N4 road to Skilpardhek at the Dinokana area has since been closed yesterday together with the Swaartkopfontein road.

Motorists are advised to take alternative routes which are the Ramatlabama and Kopfontein border routes travelling to and from Botswana.

At the Mmabatho Nursing College the situation was also reportedly violent following the students protests.

Properties are allegedly damaged at the college following these protests.

At the North West University, Mahikeng campus, police had to use rubber bullets to disperse an uncontrollable crowd.

MEC Dr Motlhabane said it is worrying to see how people are raising their concerns given that South Africa is a liberated country. “In the past years against apartheid this would’ve been understandable but in this era, it really amazes me on how people can be so unashamedly violent.

South Africa is a liberated country, we have better ways of raising our concerns since our government leadership is always on the ground and always available, our eyes and ears are on our people’s interest.

We humbly request our people to protest in a manner that enhances tenets of our democracy and within the provision of the constitution. Destroying of public and private property will not bring us water, will not bring us

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service delivery nor provide a settlement agreement for us regarding fees must fall. But through round table discussions and dialogues all these can swiftly be settled,” said Dr Motlhabane.

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