

# FIRED OVER NEPOTISM

## Seakamela found guilty on misconduct charges

**Boitumelo Tshehle**  
North West Correspondent

**THE North West education official who allegedly irregularly appointed and later promoted his wife has been fired.**

The disciplinary case against the education department's former acting superintendent-general, Abe Seakamela, was finalised last week after he pleaded guilty to two counts of misconduct.

Seakamela was served with a precautionary suspension letter in August last year after Sowetan exposed allegations of nepotism against Seakamela and his wife, Mphoentle Mogotsi-Seakamela.

Department spokesman Brian Setswambung said Seakamela pleaded guilty to two charges of misconduct before a presiding officer could make a final ruling.

This was contrary to the stance he adopted on his suspension last year.

He was subsequently found guilty on the two charges and another.

The charges were irregular expenditure, transfer of employee(s) against the moratorium on transfers and prejudicing the department and provincial government's administration by referring a forensic report to the public protector prior to exhausting internal remedies.

"On the basis of this guilty plea and the seriousness of the case, the ruling of dismissal was passed," the department said.

The allegations included the promotion of his wife, Mphoentle Mogotsi-Seakamela, and increasing her salary from R92 190 as a teacher to R454 356, first as a deputy chief



**AXED:** Abe Seakamela, who has been fired as acting superintendent-general of the department of education in North West, with provincial MEC for education Louisa Mabe.

PHOTO: BOITUMELO TSHEHLE

education specialist and later as his personal assistant.

Seakamela had previously dismissed the allegations as "a witch-hunt".

"All matters relating to salary adjustments and other remuneration

were in accordance with the prescripts of the law," he said at the time.

Seakamela said Mogotsi-Seakamela applied, was shortlisted, interviewed and appointed in the position of deputy chief education

specialist and later that of his personal assistant.

Setswambung said Mogotsi-Seakamela will no longer be a PA but an assistant-director in the multimedia and library directorate. - [tshehle@sowetan.co.za](mailto:tshehle@sowetan.co.za)

## Pregnancy stats 'disgraceful'

**Boitumelo Tshehle**

**LAST** year 1 792 girls in Grade 7 to Grade 12 were pregnant in North West.

The Dr Kenneth Kaunda district had 530 pregnant pupils, Bojanala district had 502, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti 487 and Ngaka Modiri Molema 273, North West education MEC Louisa Mabe said on Tuesday.

Mabe launched an investigation into the number of pregnant pupils after Sowetan reported in November that there were 17 pregnant girls at Barolong High School in Mahikeng.

Among last year's matriculants there were 322 pregnant girls and 501 in Grade 11, Mabe said.

She said 21 of the pregnant pupils were in Grade 7 and were between 13- and 14-years-old.

She described the statistics as a disgrace but also a wake-up call.

"I am very worried because some of these pupils are very young and will drop out," she said.

She blamed insufficient sex education, a lack of parental guidance and poverty, which forces girls to sleep with older men for money, food and clothing.

She also suggested distributing condoms in schools.

"If you say don't distribute condoms then tell us what we must do," she said, adding that her department will train teachers to educate pupils on sex education. - [tshehle@sowetan.co.za](mailto:tshehle@sowetan.co.za)

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