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Mbashe Local Municipality

**MEDIA STATEMENT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TO : ALL MEDIA  
DATE : 31 JANUARY 2025**

**MBHASHE LM CONDEMNS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST TWO ELDERLY WOMEN  
IN TSHOLORA (ELLIOTDALE).**

Mbashe Local Municipality has recently learnt with shock of the assault of two elderly women that took place in Elliotdale under Ward 15, Tsholora Administrative area. The incident, which was captured in a video that went viral on social media, where a man was visibly seen assaulting two women in a local tavern in the presence of a group of men who appeared to be not bothered by the incident.

According to the police, a case of assault was opened for investigation, and a preliminary investigation was conducted. Detectives attached to Elliotdale SAPS swiftly arrested the suspect. As of yesterday, a 29-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with assault and will appear before the Elliotdale Magistrate Court on Monday, February 3, 2025.

Earlier today, Council Speaker, Cllr. Babalwa Majavu, who is also the chairperson of the Mbashe RRT against GBV and Femicide, met and engaged with key role players, such as the Mbashe LM Women's Caucus, NGOs, the Department of Social Development, COGTA (Community Development Workers (CDW)) South African Police Services, the Department of Community Safety, Queens Desk from the Nqadu Great Place and councillors, to visit the victims to offer support and ensure that counselling has been provided and that all necessary steps when opening a case have been followed.

"In looking after the interests of women and children within our communities, as the municipality and RRT, we are saddened by this horrific act of gender-based violence. It is disturbing that the victims know the suspect and he is a traditional leader in this instance. As

the RRT, we reiterate that the fight against these kinds of social ills must continue, and we welcome the precautionary suspension of Avela Njuqwana, the Headman of Tsholora Administrative area by the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the Eastern Cape, MEC Zolile Williams,”

Following the visit, the Mbhashe RRT key role players will hold an urgent awareness campaign with the traditional leadership, churches, and local businesses in Tsholora to avoid secondary victimisation.

We are calling for no bail for the perpetrator as we strongly believe he might use his position to intimidate the victims.

The municipality urges all stakeholders within the community to work together with law enforcement agencies to ensure that the perpetrators are reported and brought to book, while education and awareness on gender-based violence must be continuous. The fight against women and children abuse should not be only for the 16 Days of Activism against Violence on Women and Children campaign.

***Issued the Communications Unit***

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