



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**30 OCTOBER 2024**

**URGENT CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN MTHATHA VILLAGES**

King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr. G.N. Nelani is deeply shocked and saddened by the recent surge of violent crimes in the Mthatha villages, culminating in the tragic loss of Abathembu Regent Nkosikazi Nogcinile Thenjiwe Mtitara, who was brutally murdered in her royal home at Mqhekezweni Great Place, Bityi.

On the same night, another elderly woman was found murdered in her home nearby the Mqhekezweni Great Place, and six high school pupils from Jongintaba Senior Secondary School were subjected to a heinous act of rape.

The Executive Mayor condemns these acts of violence in the strongest possible terms, describing them as brutal and wicked. "Such acts not only devastate the affected families but also instil fear and insecurity within our communities."

In response to these tragic events, the Executive Mayor, accompanied by the Speaker of the KSD Council and other councillors, has visited the bereaved families to offer support and assess the situation. The Municipality is committed to providing any necessary interventions and support to those affected by these heinous crimes.

The recent escalation in crime, including the brutal killing of a family of five in Ncenjana village, has raised serious concerns about the safety and security of residents in the Mthatha villages. Many of these crimes appear to be linked to revenge, stock theft, and drug-related activities. The South African Police Services are on high alert and actively pursuing the perpetrators of these crimes, with several arrests already made in connection with the Ncenjana village killings.

The Executive Mayor urges all community members to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the authorities. "We also call on all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and residents, to work collaboratively in addressing the root causes of these crimes and restoring peace and safety in our communities."

The Municipality is committed to exploring all possible measures to enhance security and support community initiatives aimed at crime prevention. We appeal to all

residents to unite in this effort to reclaim our villages from the grip of violence and crime.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims during this difficult time.

**ISSUED BY KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPALITY**

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