



## Administration Centre

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## STATEMENT

04 April 2025

*For Immediate Release*

### **Ikhala TVET College Condemns Gender-Based Violence and Takes Decisive Action**

Ikhala TVET College is deeply concerned about the recent incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) that have taken place in the past few weeks. The safety and well-being of our students remain our top priority, and we are taking urgent steps to address these serious matters.

At Ezibeleni Campus, two female students were allegedly raped by fellow male students in separate incidents. Both cases were reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS), and the accused have since been released on bail. The College has already started disciplinary processes hence one of the accused students has been placed on precautionary suspension, while disciplinary proceedings will follow for the other student after the autumn recess.

In a separate incident at Sterkspruit Campus on Friday evening, a third female student was raped at gunpoint by unknown assailants while walking to her residence with another male student. Both victims were robbed of their money and belongings. This horrific crime has been reported to SAPS, and an investigation is underway.

We are working closely with SAPS to ensure that these incidents are fully investigated and that justice is served. Internally, the College has already implemented urgent interventions. All the victims have been provided with counselling and psycho-social support at the hospital and by our own Student Support Services Unit.

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Aliwal North Campus: 051 634 1035 • Ezibeleni Engineering Campus: 047 873 1293

Queenstown Campus: 045 838 2593/94 • Queen Nonesi: 087 238 2225

• Sterkspruit: 051 611 0205

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Additionally, the College is reinforcing security measures across all campuses. The College Management convened yesterday to chart the way forward, and as part of our commitment to tackling GBV, we will intensify our awareness campaigns upon reopening next week.

Gender-based violence is a grave violation of human rights and has no place in our institution or society. Ikhala TVET College is unwavering in its commitment to ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and staff.

We urge students to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to SAPS or the College authorities.

Furthermore, we appeal to members of the media to report on these incidents with sensitivity and responsibility, ensuring that the dignity and privacy of the victims are protected. Survivors of gender-based violence deserve respect, support, and the assurance that their personal trauma will not be sensationalised.

**Issued by: Ikhala TVET College Management**

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