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CONFIDENTIAL REPORT.

To: Directorate, Department of Health (DOH)

Subject: Investigation Report on Allegations Surrounding the Death in Tetelastai Recovery Centre

1. Introduction

- This report outlines findings from an official investigation conducted at the Tetelastai Recovery Centre
- Which is concerning the recent death of Mr Luke Edwards – aged 32years, an inpatient at the facility.
- Speculations reported in local media have suggested potential negligence or direct involvement
- By the facility personnel or by an individual closer/associated to TRC in the death of Mr Luke Edwards.
- This investigation was aimed at establishing facts, clarifying timelines & circumstances surrounding the incident.

2. Background – Based on evidence shown and provided to me.

- **Name of Deceased:** Mr Luke Edwards
 - **Age of the Deceased:** 32years
 - **Date of Admission:** 31 March 2025
 - **Date Reported Missing:** 8 April 2025 (23:06) within the facility on their whatsapp group only
 - **Date Reported Missing:** 9 April 2025 approximately around 7am to the family by TRC representative
 - **Date Confirmed Deceased:** 9 April 2025 (approximately 5:20am).
 - Where he was found lying dead in his own pool of blood, wounded, assaulted, shirtless, head smashed, etc.
 - **Date Identification Confirmed:** 9 April 2025 – around 9am, a Police Officer came TRC with his picture
 - **Checking if anyone knows him** – a yes answer meant going to the incident spot for confirmations.
 - **Location of Death:** Neighboring Facility – Retirement Home, Outside and nearby Tetelastai Premises
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- Luke Edwards relocated to SA from Mexico some time in March.
 - He was smoking a lot of Marijuana by then
 - He even broke in to one of the neighbouring houses
 - At some point amongst others he assaulted his uncle.
 - The police were called for assistance, he was taken to ARCA recovery Centre.
 - He was admitted in ARCA recovery Centre for 3 days.
 - The family also supplied them with Affidavits stating that Luke was a danger to himself & others.
 - After two days of medical detox, Luke became violent and aggressive towards the staff of ARCA
 - At around 13:00 Dr. Prakash Naidoo from ARCA called Tetelastai Recovery Centre
 - In the company of the Edwards family (Mr and Mrs Edwards) in his office.
 - They requested Luke's admission to Tetelastai Recovery Centre for rehabilitation
 - Which is where it was stated that they were in the process of obtaining a Section 33.
 - Tetelastai Recovery Centre fetched Luke from ARCA recovery Centre at 5pm – 31 March 2025
 - Luke stated that his family was forcing him to be in the rehabilitation Centre,
 - Just because Luke was threatening to expose his mother committing fraud at work (to be verified)
 - And that his father was not his biological father as it is being stated...(More information required here)
 - His family, concerned about his mental and physical state, facilitated his admission to Tetelastai Recovery Centre
 - He was admitted on the 31st of March 2025 for complex assistance and intergrated rehabilitation programmes.
 - In-facility protocols for admission and treatment procedures, were reportedly followed by the facility personnel.

3. Incident Timeline and Evidence

3.1. Missing Person Alert.

- On 8 April 2025 at 23:06, a message in the facility's internal WhatsApp group (Message seen)

- It was indicated that Mr Luke Edwards was missing from his room.
- An internal search was conducted on the premises but yielded no results.
- Due to the late hour, the facility management delayed contacting the family until the next morning.

3.2. Police Involvement and Identification

- On 9 April 2025 at approximately 07:00, the facility informed the family about the disappearance.
- At about 09am, a police van arrived at the gate of the centre with a photograph of a deceased individual
- Who was found naked, unresponsive, lying on the pool of blood at a nearby retirement facility.
- Facility staff identified the individual in the photo as Mr Luke Edwards
- Upon being taken to the scene, the family and staff confirmed his identity.
- Retirement home personnel stated right there that they have CCTV Cameras in the facility if needed.

4. Video and Witness Evidence

4.1. Security Footage

A video presented during the facility visit shows Mr Edwards alive at approximately 01:30 on 9 April 2025. He is visibly clothed, coherent, and not exhibiting any signs of distress or injury.

He is seen speaking with a security guard and drinking water,

Which supports the assertion that he was alive and in a seemingly stable condition at that time.

Which is approximately 2h30 after being reported missing in the facility whatsapp

4.2. Witness Testimony – Security Personnel.

The security guard in the video stated Luke approached their Main Gate at around 01:30, requesting water.

Which he was provided with and consumed it and then is seen conversing briefly with the security guard.

The security guard did not observe any visible wounds, blood, agitation, or erratic behavior by the time.

The security guard can serve as a key witness to confirm Mr Luke Edwards' condition at that time.

5. Discovery of the Body

Mr Luke Edwards body was reportedly discovered around 05:00am – 9 April 2025

His body found lying in a pool of blood, shirtless, and showing signs of physical assault.

Notable injuries included: Head trauma. Stab wounds with Extensive bleeding

The condition in which he was found was in stark contrast to his earlier appearance at 01:30am.

6. Preliminary Conclusions based on the video seen.

Mr Luke Edwards appeared alive, outside of TRC premises & no visibly injured as of 01:30 - 9 April 2025,

Based on both CCTV footage (available to be viewed) and eyewitness account(Security Guard on duty).

He was discovered dead with visible injuries and without a shirt approximately four hours after he saw him.

The location where his body was found was not within the Tetelastai Recovery Centre premises,

But rather at the facilities of a nearby retirement home adjacent to Tetelastai Recovery Centre.

The delay in notifying the family may warrant further administrative review,

Although the facility did attempt internal searching before alerting them early the next day.

There is no current evidence directly implicating Tetelastai staff in Mr Luke Edwards' death.

The video evidence, timeline, and security guard's testimony may assist law enforcement

In identifying suspects or confirming the validity of current arrests if they are rightfully so or not.

Only SAPS investigating Officer can verify that and use the available edidences at hand for now

Whiles continued search would continue even thereafter to find the real culprit in the matter.

7. Recommendations

- ❖ Further investigation by SAPS should prioritize obtaining external CCTV footages from retirement Home
- ❖ Which shows the surrounding area to determine Mr Luke Edwards' movements between 1am and 5am.
- ❖ As finding his body inside neighboring vicinity can indirectly mean he never went far from that area.
- ❖ Security guard who interacted with the deceased should be formally interviewed and considered a witness.
- ❖ Family liaison should be maintained and improved in future incidents to prevent delays in communication.

- ❖ A review of facility protocol during emergencies and missing person situations is advised
- ❖ So to strengthen procedural responses in cases of such incidences in the future though never intended.
- ❖ Policies that talks about such incidence and not limited to such, should be made available or drafted
- ❖ Clarify if current suspects in custody were linked via independent witness testimony or surveillance,
- ❖ Especially given the inconsistency in Mr Luke Edwards condition between 01:00am and 05:00am
- ❖ This matter to be attended to additionally by DSD and Municipality Enviromental Health as well
- ❖ I believe beside's Retirement center, other neighbouring facilities or homes do have CCTV's
- ❖ So checking their corresponding footages on the street nearby can assist in the matter as well.
- ❖ Including Tetelastai Themselves, if they have CCTV, their footages needs to be viewed too
- ❖ Even if there might be no information related to the incident, viewing seems necessary.

8. Attachments and Supporting Material

- a) Witness transcript:
- b) WhatsApp message log extract (dated)
- c) Security Guard on Duty on the day can give some insight in the matter
- d) Copy of CCTV footage stills (if available) – right round CCTV footage can be assistive
- e) Photo evidence shown during community verification (if permissible)
- f) Police case reference number (if provided and required)
- g) Conducting an investigations to the residents who were in TRC on the day can be ideal as well.

9. Apologies.

- In my report on this matter last week, I mixed the information of two different cases
- I stated that his behavior was following the loss of his father – but that's another case – apologies to that.
- His report has now been reviewed and corrected with facts – both parents are alive.
- I even have copies of their affidavits that they made for Mr Luke's admission to Tetelastai.

10. In Conclusion.

- I have contacted both Municipality and Social Development for a collaborative visit to the facility.
- We have agreed on visiting the facility as a team on the 10th of July 2025, scheduled for 9H00am.
- Due to the fact that all registration documents points at Municipality and DSD only, not DOH
- Therefore my sole visit would be limited as this facility is new's to me and my department
- But I was surely received well and I was even taken on a walk about around the facility
- I would like to have the list of all practitioners, their qualification and their registration numbers if available
 - ❖ Two Doctors (HPCSA)
 - ❖ 5 Therapists (Their body)
 - ❖ 2 Interns Therapists (Schoo Information)
 - ❖ One Nurse (SANC)
 - ❖ Securities, etc. (Their body)
- Additionally an advice would be given to the facility personnel as to what is missing and needs to be sorted
- Including application to be licensed by Department Of Health amongst other noted just at runderm visit.

If possible better this information is collected and compiled before our visit 10 July 2025 in the morning

That is all I wanted to state in writing based on my findings while I was in the facility tasked to go and investigate.

Warm regards,

Nicholus Khumalo

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coordinator

eThekweni Health District Office