



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Natalia, 330 Longmarket Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201  
Private Bag X9051, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
Tel.: 033 395 2220, Fax.: 033 3420429  
thusim@dohho.kzntl.gov.za

---

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 6 DECEMBER 2005**

**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### PRELIMINARY REPORT

#### DEATH OF A PATIENT AT TOWNHILL HOSPITAL

A preliminary investigation into the death of Mr. Vicky Rooplal, a patient at Townhill hospital has been concluded and a preliminary report has been released. Mr. Rooplal (22), an Indian Male was a repeat admission to Townhill hospital. He had been transferred from King George V Hospital yesterday, (Monday, 5 December 2005) and arrived at Townhill hospital at 13H30 and was seen by a doctor 15 minutes after his arrival at the hospital.

The doctor prescribed routine medication and did not prescribe medication to sedate Mr. Rooplal as he appeared lucid, well orientated and in an affable mood.

Mr. Rooplal appeared sad, but was not withdrawn or aggressive. He was then transferred to a ward at 14H00 where he sat and watched television. Three hours later Mr. Rooplal started to become restless and demanded cigarettes. He was moved to a seclusion room as directed by the medical doctor who had seen him on arrival at the hospital.

The police were notified after Mr. Rooplal's body was found hanging just after 18H00. He had committed suicide by hanging himself using a pair of his pyjamas. Statements have been requested from all staff who came into contact with Mr. Rooplal at the hospital.

Dr. Sandile Buthelezi, Area General Manager for Umgungundlovu health district has been tasked with investigating the matter fully and a report is expected before the end of the week.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943  
or Desmond Motha on 083 295 3901**

