



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

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NURSE AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER SUSPENDED FOLLOWING A RAPE OF A MENTALLY ILL PATIENT AT TOWNHILL HOSPITAL

The Department of Health has effectively suspended the nurse who allegedly raped a patient while she was a patient at Townhill Hospital and subsequently beat her when she confronted him about her pregnancy.

This action followed reports from the media about a patient who was admitted at Townhill Hospital around April 2007 and who alleges that she was raped a day before she was to be discharged. When the matter was brought to the attention of the Department, the allegations were investigated and it was discovered that the case was reported to the Human Resources Manager (around August) who did not take any action against the alleged perpetrator. This has resulted in the Department suspending the Human Resources Manager as well for his contribution in the cover-up of this callous act.

The two officers are suspended pending the conclusion of disciplinary cases against them. The victim is currently receiving counseling through a Departmental Psychologist. The Department is confident that the police will pursue criminal charges against the alleged perpetrator and he shall be given a sentence befitting his cold-blooded actions.

The Department wishes to assure the public that such cruel acts against the vulnerable will not be tolerated. The MEC is on record advocating for the protection of the rights of mentally ill patients and for their dignity to be respected at all times. Any staff member who is found to be abusing people left under our care will face the might of the law. We encourage users of our facilities to report such acts immediately so that the perpetrators can get what they deserve without delay.

ISSUED BY:

MR LA MBANGWA

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