

Media Statement
27 July 2015

KZN Health MEC sends condolences after RK Khan hospital student nurse's demise

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health is saddened to announce the regrettable demise of a student nurse, following a fire in his room at the nurses' residence building yesterday (26 July 2015).

It is alleged that around 08h00, an enrolled nursing assistant first noticed the smell of smoke and then went to investigate. After checking several rooms, he arrived at the nursing student's room, and found that the door was hot and locked.

He called for help. Another staff member arrived and broke down the door. At this point, the nursing student was on the floor and the room was on fire. While attempts were made to extinguish the fire, the nursing student was put on a stretcher and rushed to the resuscitation room for medical assistance. He was badly burnt and unconscious.

Unfortunately, the nursing student passed away in ICU at 16H45. His family has been informed and had a meeting with the Hospital management.

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has passed his deepest condolences to the bereaved.

"We are deeply shocked and saddened by the passing away of this young nursing student under such circumstances. We send our heartfelt condolences to the family," said the MEC.

The matter is now under investigation by the South African Police Services.

ENDS

Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health