

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: ALL MEDIA  
ATT: NEWS EDITORS  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, 08 JULY 2015**

### **FOUR SUSPENDED FOR CONFUSION IN INFANT BODIES**

A clerk and three mortuary attendants have been provisionally suspended pending internal and police investigations into the confusion of new born bodies at Bheki Mlangeni District Hospital mortuary.

A 20 year old, Ntsekiseng Gabela, young mother was admitted and gave birth at the hospital in Soweto. Unfortunately, the child died later the same day and the mother was discharged the following day.

It is alleged that the hospital mortuary gave the bereaved family a wrong body with wrong tag information. This was discovered when the family was about to bury the child.

The department conveys its condolences to the bereaved mother and her family. Losing a new-born immediately after birth is traumatic on its own and to undergo secondary trauma in this manner is unimaginable, believes the department. No effort shall be spared to get to the bottom of this confusion and to prevent it from happening again.

A criminal case has been opened with the Jabulani Police Station. On its side, the department has provisionally suspended four officials pending the investigations. To rectify the confusion, DNA testing will be conducted. The department will ensure that the family is assisted with the costs incurred thus far.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860**

**For media enquiries, please use the address: [mediaenquiries@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:mediaenquiries@gauteng.gov.za)**

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