

01 February 2017

**Media Statement: Health Ombudsman's report on deaths of mentally ill patients in Gauteng**

Life Esidimeni has received a copy of the Health Ombudsman's report into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of mentally ill patients in Gauteng.

We would like to express our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to the family members of our former patients and hope that the release of the report brings them closure.

Furthermore, I am personally shocked, deeply saddened and devastated at the extent of the loss of life.

We would like to commend the Health Ombudsman, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba and his team for the urgency, rigour and commitment with which this important investigation was undertaken.

As, Life Esidimeni, we will continue to work with government and all stakeholders to ensure that the most vulnerable of our society are cared for in a dignified and humane manner.

Ends

**Please quote:** Dr Nilesh Patel, Healthcare Services Operations Executive, Life Healthcare

Contact:

Thembi Tlale  
Fleishman Hillard  
[thembi.tlale@fleishman.co.za](mailto:thembi.tlale@fleishman.co.za)  
011 548 2098

or

Tanya Bennetts  
Life Healthcare  
Group Communication Manager  
[tanya.bennetts@lifehealthcare.co.za](mailto:tanya.bennetts@lifehealthcare.co.za)  
011 219 9672