

Suspect in cell 'died of blood poisoning'

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PETALING JAYA: Suspect A. Gnanaprakasam, who was found dead while in police custody on Friday, died of intestinal infection and blood poisoning.

Selangor police chief Datuk Khalid Ibrahim Abu Bakar said last night this was the result of a post-mortem. He said allegations that the victim had bruises all over his body were false.

"The medical report states that the suspect's body was not bruised," Khalid said, adding there was a bruise near the victim's eyes because he had resisted arrest. He had allegedly attempted to break into a house in Sungai Buloh last week.

The 53-year-old was found dead in the toilet of a cell at the Damansara police station by an officer last Friday morning.

Gnanaprakasam's family members had alleged negligence. Police have found no evidence of foul play. The case is being investigated as sudden death.

Gnanaprakasam had nine previous records, including for drug abuse and trafficking. He also served time at Sim-pang Renggam.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar said police would not hide facts concerning the death of detainees. He said police procedures were followed strictly. A magistrate and a doctor were at the cell before the body was sent to the mortuary.

Kapar member of parliament S. Manikavasagam said the family would claim the body at 9am today.

"The family members have also requested to meet the pathologist to get a full explanation on the medical report."