

PRESS RELEASE

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MEC WELCOMES SENTENCING OF THREE PENNINGTON RAPISTS

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Bheki Cele has welcomed the sentencing of the culprits who raped three tourists in Pennington last year in December. The three were sentenced to five life imprisonment each.

The three culprits, Sthembiso Shelembe (23), Mthokozisi Mbambo(29), Wonder Mnchunu (26), also received an additional sentence of 60 years for armed robbery and 9 years for indecent assault.

In sentencing these three criminal elements, Judge Leona Pheron indicated that no appeal would be granted to sentence and amnesty could only be granted or considered after they have served 25 years behind bars. She said that when the rape incident took place, the three victims were with two of their boyfriends who were tied up whilst their female companions were raped.

"I would like to commend the SAPS for apprehending these criminal elements. Our judiciary has also shown its effectiveness in sentencing such criminals. This should send a clear message that government is serious about having a crime free society", said Cele.

ENDS

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