



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SENTENCING OF THREE MALE NURSES**

The Provincial MEC for Health, Mrs Peggy Nkonyeni welcomes the sentencing of three male nurses who were today convicted in the Pietermaritzburg District Court. The trio Simon Simelane, Cedric Mhlongo and Musa Zondi were sentenced after they had been found guilty of assaulting a mental patient, at Fort Napier Hospital in 2002, "I hope this will serve as a deterrent to any staff member who is thinking of abusing any patient or engaging in any act of criminality," said the MEC.

They were sentenced to a fine of R3000 or 10 months imprisonment, half of which has been suspended for four years.

The Department would like to place on record that such incidents will not be tolerated and that necessary action would be instituted once the department has obtained full details of the sentence.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact Mrs Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943**

