

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 04 AUGUST 2015**

**RE: KAGISO STABBER JAILED**

A man who stabbed five people, killing three of them was on Friday, 31 July 2015 sentenced to 31 years by the Gauteng Local Division High Court sitting in Kagiso.

Zakhele Ignitius Mthethwa (22) was convicted on eight counts in which he was in possession of a knife in furtherance of crimes of a violent nature, offences which are punishable by law. The accused stabbed three deceased persons, who most of them were known to him with a (Jungle) knife on their heads on the same day, 02 September 2013. These incidents took place at three different scenes with the last incident that took place hours after the first two murders. The court was therefore satisfied the accused had enough "cooling off periods" between the murders to rethink about the implications of his acts. He was arrested a day later in Mpumalanga where he had been hiding.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges against him and was convicted after a trial was conducted wherein the state had to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

When asking for a conviction the state submitted that from the evidence presented, the accused had the intention to kill the three deceased persons in this matter. The accused's choice of stabbing all three deceased in the head and the kind of weapon that he used pointed towards an intention to kill on his part. The accused was found guilty of three counts of murder, two of attempted murder, two of robbery and one of assault.

Pleading with the court to impose the mandatory sentence, Adv Rendani Ndou argued that mandatory penalties serve the purpose of retribution and deterrent and in addition to their deterrent effect; they reduce crime by incapacitating criminals and protecting the public from prospective dangers of such criminals.

The NPA strives to deliver justice.

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Louw**

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