

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 07 AUGUST 2015**

**RE: REIGER PARK MURDER ACCUSED SENTENCED**

The man guilty of kidnapping and murdering a 3 year-old boy, Curburne Van Wyk from Reigerpark was sentenced by the high court sitting in Palmridge to life imprisonment today.

Nathaniel Mpoku was charged with one count of kidnapping and another count of murder. The court sentenced him to 10 years for kidnapping, a sentence which was ordered to run concurrently with the life sentence imposed for murder.

Mpoku was the last person seen with the deceased following him from a soccer field by boys who were playing soccer on the day he disappeared. The boys' testimony was found to be crucial and credible by the court as the only witnesses that saw the accused leave with the little boy from the Ramaphosa soccer field. The child's burnt body was discovered by a passer-by at a mine dump three days after he went missing and the post-mortem results revealed that he died as a result of strangulation and burns to his body.

With no DNA or motive for the murder, the state relied on circumstantial evidence that placed Mpoku at the [crime scene, evidence which he could not dispute. The court found that it was highly improbable that the accused told the truth when relating his version of events and therefore dismissed his alibi as untrue.](#)

The state advocate, Annemarie Smith argued on sentence inter alia that the accused could not be controlled by his parents as a child and absconded from school. He has previous convictions, two of theft and one of housebreaking. At the time he committed this offence, he was out on parole. He therefore did not rehabilitate or took the chances he was given to rehabilitate – in fact, the offence he committed, was more serious in nature proving that chances of him rehabilitating are highly unlikely. He has shown no remorse and is a danger to society. She further argued that the courts are there to protect the community from people such as the accused who kidnap and murder defenseless citizens. "The only justified sentence on these facts should be life imprisonment", she added.

The NPA commends the bravery of the boys who played a crucial role in solving the mystery murder through the assistance of court preparations manager, Asewa Fundi.

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Louw**  
**Regional Manager: DPP South Gauteng**  
**0834024787**  
[hlouw@npa.gov.za](mailto:hlouw@npa.gov.za)