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15 LIFE TERMS & 120 YEARS FOR SERIAL RAPIST

The NPA welcomes the sentencing of serial rapist, Sikhangele Mki to 15 life terms and 120 years imprisonment by the Western Cape High Court today. The court ordered the sentences to run concurrently with the life sentences, meaning the accused is sentenced to life imprisonment. The court also ordered that his name be included in the register for sex offenders.

Mki pleaded guilty on twelve counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, six counts of attempted robbery with aggravating circumstances, three counts of attempted robbery, two counts of robbery, four counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, twenty seven counts of kidnapping and thirty counts of rape. The accused was arrested after he was linked to the cases by the DNA. He faced and was convicted on eighty four counts with twenty seven complainants in the case. Some of his victims are nine girls who were under the age of 16 and the youngest victim was 11 years-old.

The accused has a previous conviction of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm after he robbed and stabbed a woman in Delft in 2013. He was sentenced to three years wholly suspended for five years. After this sentence, the serial sexual predator took a break of six months and moved from Delft to Khayelitsha where he started his gruesome crimes against women and children.

Advocate Alta Collopy and Advocate Nokuzola Mbewana – Mthelelo who successfully prosecuted the case, told the court that the only appropriate sentence is direct imprisonment and, more specifically, 15 life terms and 120 years imprisonment. They asked for his name to be registered in the National Register for Sex Offenders.

The Victim Impact Statements drafted by the Bellville Magistrates Court's Preparation Officers painted a picture of physical and emotional scars that were inflicted on the victims. Some of the victims expressed hatred of men whether they were their partners, relatives or classmates, experiencing withdrawals, self – hatred, self - blame, feelings of low self - esteem, guilty feelings, trauma, stress and inferiority complex. They tell of feeling weak emotionally, intellectually and physically and thoughts of committing suicide.

The NPA welcomes the tough sentence handed to the accused, hoping that it serves as a lesson for communities that they do not have to take the law into own hands but report crimes to the police and come forward as witnesses to help the NPA secure strong sentences as happened in this case.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila Regional Communications Manager DPP: Western Cape