

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 29 OCTOBER 2015

RE: LONG TERM IMPRISONMENT IMPOSED FOR RHINO POACHING

The Makhado Regional Court sentenced Talani Prince Maluleke, a 20 year old male from Mutale to six years imprisonment for hunting of a rhino, six months for trespassing, five years for possession of a fire arm and one year for possession of ammunition. Count 4 and 2 are to run concurrently with count 1.

The accused was effectively sentenced to eleven years for hunting of a rhino, where no rhino was actually shot, killed or dehorned.

On 21 May 2014, workers on Farm Eckland in the Limpopo province spotted human tracks in the farm. They saw that these tracks were following the trails of a rhino. The local trackers, together with the K9 unit of SAPS were deployed. Helicopters and dogs were also utilised.

Police arrested two people walking on the main road next to the farm. They were stopped and searched. Trackers were called. They confirmed that those were the trails they were following. The suspects then also pointed out a 303 rifle as well as an axe. Police were able to lift plaster of parish cast of the footprints found on the farm. They were a match.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and applauds Hilke Janse van Rensburg for a successful prosecution.

Kind Regards,

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