

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 21 April 2016

RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE

Yanga Deleki (27) was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Ngcobo Regional Court on Thursday, 13 April 2016 after the court found him guilty of rape. He was also sentenced to ten years on a second count of rape and five years for kidnapping. The two latter sentences were ordered to run concurrently with the life sentence.

According to evidence presented in court, the rape victim (16) was walking home with her 13 year-old brother from one of the villages in the mountainous Deberha area near Ngcobo on the evening of 11 August 2014. They were accosted by Deleki and his accomplice, who is still at large. The victim's younger brother ran away when he realised that the two men had knives, leaving his sister behind. Deleki stabbed the victim on her thigh and dragged her to a dilapidated house, where he raped her. After the first rape, he dragged her to his grandmother's residence where upon arrival, the victim told the granny that she had been raped by Deleki. The rapist threatened his grandmother too and left to his nearby home, where he raped the victim for the second time. In the early hours of the morning, Deleki fell asleep and the victim managed to escape to a nearby homestead, where she reported that she had been raped.

During the trial, Deleki pleaded not guilty claiming that they had consensual sex, but the evidence against him, including that of the victim, her brother, the neighbour to whom the victim reported the rape and the doctor who examined her, was overwhelming. During cross examination by regional court prosecutor Loyiso Methuso, Deleki could not account for the injury that his victim sustained on her thigh and the reason that would cause his victim to leave his place very early in the morning if she was his girlfriend as he wanted the court to believe. The court rejected his evidence as highly improbable and sentenced him.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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