

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST GETS DOUBLE LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Zakhele Mkhwanazi, 38, was sentenced to double life plus six months imprisonment in the Galeshewe Regional Court on Tuesday after being found guilty on two counts of rape and assault with grievous bodily harm for the rape and assault of a 60 year-old woman.

The incident occurred in October 2009, Mkhwanazi went to the woman's house to buy some peanuts and when she entered her kitchen to fetch the container of peanuts, Mkhwanazi grabbed her by the neck. He threw her on the floor and he further kicked her on the face. Thereafter he undressed her and raped her for several times. After the rape he tied her with a rope to the foot of the table and was left there unconscious.

During the early hours of the following morning the neighbours heard a noise coming from her house. When they entered the house they found her with injuries on her face and police were called and later Mkhwanazi was arrested.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Keageletse Ilanga called a Social Worker to testify about the seriousness of rape and the impact of the crime to her family. The woman has since passed on in 2015.

The court found that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances looking at the seriousness of the crime and the fact that she was a neighbour of the accused and she was a defenceless old woman.

The NPA welcomes the sentence. We hope that the severe sentences will bring some relief to the affected families and renew their confidence in the criminal justice system.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi- Dzhangi

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Kimberley

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