

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 04 MAY 2016

RE: TRIO SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR BRUTAL RAPE AND ROBBERY

The Cradock Regional Court sentenced Lithemba Ngwase, Sinethemba Majikazana and Siyanda Willie to life imprisonment on 15 April 2016. In addition to the life imprisonment the court imposed 10 and 15 years each respectively for robbery with aggravating circumstances.

It is alleged in court papers that the adult female was on her way home when she was accosted by the accused. The accused dragged her to the bushes where they took turns raping her and they were all armed with knives and Pangas. It is also revealed that they also robbed the victim of her jacket, one nokia cell phone and R150 in cash. After violating her they left her alone in the bushes and she slowly made her way to the neighbours and reported the rape. Two minors who witnessed the incident, reported to their school teachers who assisted in the identification of the accused and their subsequent arrest.

The prosecutor addressed the court on applicability of the minimum sentences which are applicable in gang rape cases. The state further addressed the court on the stigma caused by gang rape in general. The court was also addressed by the state on the extensive trauma suffered by the victim on account of the gang rape; this was contained in a victim impact statement that was handed to court.

The victim of this heinous crime expressed a lot of joy after the sentence as she said that she believed that justice has been served. Mary- Ann Engelbrecht prosecuted the matter for the state.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza

Regional Spokesperson: DPP PE & Grahamstown

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