

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 14 OCTOBER 2016**

**RE: HARSH SENTENCE FOR SERIAL RAPIST**

The High Court in Palmridge sentenced a serial rapist in absentia to seven life terms for rapes and kidnapping on Monday, 10 October 2016.

Ronald Rudzani Mbasigidi (34) left the sentencing proceedings after he fired his lawyer and refused legal representation offered by the state institution, Legal Aid South Africa. He then proceeded to the cells and refused to take orders from the presiding officer, Acting Judge D Dosio. This left the court with no option but to continue proceedings without him.

Mbasigidi was linked to all rapes by DNA collected from three victims, including one that he stabbed and left to die. During the trial, Mbasigidi maintained his innocence claiming that he was never near the crime scenes but failed to explain how the DNA extracted from the victims matched his very own DNA.

The convict was charged with nine counts ranging from kidnapping, murder, rape and assault. He targeted young women walking alone in the dark. He would blindfold them, then force them into nearby bushes and rape them. His raping spree ended in March 2014 after a member of the Community Policing Forum saw a man coming from the pipes where the body of the deceased was found and alerted the police.

Arguing during the conviction, Advocate Phakanyiswa Marasela asked the court to consider the credibility and corroboration of evidence heard from state witnesses. She further argued that when assessing circumstantial evidence, the evidence should be considered in its totality. "The independent circumstances and facts should all point to the same conclusion and inference. The evidence as a whole should furnish sufficient

proof of guilt”, she said. Thereafter the court was satisfied that the states’ evidence outweighed that of the defence.

The NPA welcomes the court’s decision of not allowing any further delays and ensuring that justice is delivered to the victims of this horrendous crime.

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Louw**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng**

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