

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 02 September 2016**

**RE: TWO LIFE SENTENCES FOR TEEN**

The Ermelo High Court sentenced Mduduzi Hlophe (19) to two life sentences and 8 years imprisonment for murder and rape. The incident occurred in July 2012 on a plantation at Mangusuthu Village, near Piet Retief in Mpumalanga, where two victims aged 62 and 36 were collecting firewood and they crossed paths with the accused.

The accused approached the younger victim from behind and stabbed her as she fled the scene. He then raped and stabbed the second victim to death.

While the younger victim was bleeding from the chest wounds on the edge of the plantation she managed to reach a national road where passing motorists spotted her and alerted the authorities. Fortunately, she did not die as she spent more than a month in hospital recovering from her ordeal.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Ashwin Poodhun led evidence that the accused was linked to four other dockets being investigated by the police and shown no remorse for his actions. He had taken life and caused untold misery and suffering to his victims. Then the judge sentenced the accused to two life sentences and 8 years imprisonment for murder and rape. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the Director of Public Prosecutions in Mpumalanga, Advocate Sibongile Mzinyathi, commends Advocate Ashwin Poodhun for work well done and ensuring successful prosecution.

Kind Regards,

**Monica Nyuswa**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP: Mpumalanga Satellite Office**

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