

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 18 AUGUST 2021

RE: BUTTERWORTH MAN SENTENCED TO 22 YEARS FOR RAPE

The Butterworth Regional Court yesterday sentenced Lindani Tshinga (28) to 22 years imprisonment after convicting him on a count rape and robbery with aggravating circumstances.

On the morning of 28 August 2020, the 40-year-old victim was walking in Ibika Township in the district of Butterworth. Tshinga accosted the woman and dragged her to a deserted bushy area near the Walter Sisulu University campus. He raped her at knifepoint and ran away with her cellphone.

Minutes afterwards, Tshinga met a university student walking to campus. He robbed her of her cell phone but the incident was witnessed by an off-duty police constable, Fezile Mjakula who gave chase. Tshinga was apprehended. While the police were effecting the arrest, the rape victim arrived and identified the rapist and her cell phone was recovered in his possession.

Regardless of the overwhelming evidence against him, Tshinga pleaded not guilty. The prosecutor, Jongikhaya Dudumashe led the evidence of the victim and Mjakula to secure the conviction. The second robbery charge had to be withdrawn because the complainant could not be traced.

The magistrate, Veliswa Sityata agreed with the prosecutor that although Tshinga did not stab the victims, he must be removed from the society for a long time as he showed no respect for women, more especially that the crime was committed during the Women's Month.

He was sentenced to 10 years on the charge of robbery with aggravating circumstances, which the court ordered to run concurrently with the 22-year jail term.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Luxolo Tyali

**Regional Spokesperson: Eastern Cape – Mthatha
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