

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: CHILD RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE

Last week, 20 November 2019, the Tsomo Regional Court sentenced Wandisile Mhe to life imprisonment after convicting him for raping a 6 month-old infant. In addition, the court ordered that Mhe's name be added to the Register of Sex Offenders, and declared him unfit to possess a firearm in the future.

Evidence presented in court is that Mhe went to the victim's home in the afternoon of 07 December 2015 at Nqancule village in the Mtshanyaneni Area. He found the mother of the baby busy with chores and sweeping the floor and asked if anyone had brought a cell phone to her. Before she could answer, he drew a knife and attacked the mother without any provocation. The mother managed to escape from her house and screamed for help. Mhe then locked himself in the room where the baby was sleeping.

When the neighbours, including Mhe's father, responded to the mother's alarm, they could not enter the room, as they were afraid of him. Young men were called from a traditional ceremony nearby and they kicked the door open and found the child naked from waist down.

During trial, Mhe pleaded not guilty but prosecutor Ayanda Nkumanda led the evidence of the mother and neighbours. She submitted a medical report compiled by a forensic nurse stationed at the Butterworth Thuthuzela Care Centre, which confirmed injuries on the genital parts of the infant, consistent with sexual penetration.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

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