

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 07 MARCH 2019**

**RE: CHILD RAPISTS SENTENCED TO LIFE**

Today, the Cala Regional Court sentenced Bonga Mtshazi (26) to life imprisonment after he was convicted of raping a nine year-old girl on the Day of Goodwill in 2017.

According to evidence presented in court, the minor victim and the rapist resided in neighbouring homesteads in the village of Lower-Langani in the district of Cala. On 26 December 2017, Mtshazi was consuming liquor at the home of the victim when he tricked the young unsuspecting child to follow him to his home. Another 13 year-old girl became suspicious and followed them a few minutes later. When the teenager peeped through the window, she saw Mtshazi raping the crying nine year-old and she went to report what she had witnessed to her parents, who then summoned community members.

When Mtshazi returned to his victim's homestead, he was met by the angry mob that assaulted him until he was rescued by the police who were called by another neighbour. He was arrested and he initially denied raping the child and pleaded not guilty. However, when Regional Court Prosecutor, Monde Magenu confronted Mtshazi with evidence, including DNA results from samples taken from the child linking him to the crime, he changed his plea to that of guilty.

In aggravation of sentence, the state called the victim's mother who told the court of the pain of having her child raped by the neighbour she trusted as a brother, adding that the behaviour of her little daughter changed since the rape incident. The court concurred with the state's submission that there were no compelling circumstances for deviation from the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment, and sentenced the rapist accordingly.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded rapists who intend targeting vulnerable children.

Kind Regards,

**Luxolo Tyali**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha**

**Enquiries: [ltali@npa.gov.za](mailto:ltali@npa.gov.za)**

**047 502 2630**