

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: FATHER AND SON SENTENCED FOR RAPE

Yesterday, the Piet Retief Regional Court convicted and sentenced Zacharia Mhlanga (53) and his son Sphamandla Mhlanga (25) for raping his grandchildren.

Zacharia is the maternal grandfather and Siphamandla is the uncle of the victims who are between five and six years of age in the matter. The victims were staying in a communal house with the accused and other family relatives after their mother passed away.

The rape incident happened in 2016, where the grandfather and his son would take turns in raping the victims. The incident was only reported after one of the victims was taken to hospital after sustaining burnt wounds and reported it to the social worker that she and her sister were being sexually abused by their grandfather and uncle at home. The social worker then alerted the police and the pair was arrested.

During trial, Advocate Marlin Cairncross led testimonies of the victims through the assistance of an intermediary describing in graphic detail their ordeal. J88 medical reports were also handed in and the accused were found guilty as charged.

Before the pair were sentenced, the presiding officer remarked that the grandfather and the son showed no remorse for their actions and that they pose a threat to the safety and security of women and young children as it was their responsibility to protect the victims. He then sentenced them to life imprisonment on each count of rape.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and will continue to strive for justice for all.

Kind Regards,

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