

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: NPA DETERMINED TO REMOVE PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENT CRIMES

Today the High Court sitting in Palm Ridge meted deserving sentences to two rapists, in two separate rape cases prosecuted by Adv Rolene Bester.

Thanduxolo Maphela, a former dance teacher, was sentenced to four life terms plus 32 years for eight counts of rape on minors aged 11 to 13 years. In one occasion in the Roodepoort area, he asked the complainants to accompany him in order to fetch traditional instruments, sticks, documents and etc which were to be used in their traditional dancing practice and competitions. When they were together, they would be walking through a veld or near bushes where the accused would call the complainants separately into the bushes and rape them.

In the second case, Thabo Seabo Chabalala was sentenced to an effective 40 years imprisonment for two counts of rape, robbery and pointing of an object resembling a firearm. These crimes were committed in Honeydew and Northriding. The accused targeted women who were alone in isolated areas. He would point them with what seemed like a firearm, demand their belongings, thereafter push them into nearby bushes and rape them.

In passing sentence on both the cases, the court took into account the trauma the victims had to endure by retelling their horrific ordeal in court, the effects of the crime itself on their dignity and self-worth and the country's current state in as far as violent crimes are concerned. The Judge therefore decided that the State's argument that retribution should take preference against rehabilitation is valid.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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