

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: GANG-RAPISTS SENTENCED

On Monday 27 January 2020, the Sterkspruit Regional Court sentenced Mamello Mothibe (22) and Tsepo Rampeyi (25) to 20 years imprisonment for raping a 22 year-old woman.

The rape occurred on 16 October 2016 at Thaba Lesoba village in the district of Sterkspruit. The two men and the victim had been drinking in the same local tavern when the woman decided to go outside during the night to relieve herself. The rapists escorted her, dragged her to Mothibe's home in the same village where they both raped the helplessly intoxicated woman, in the presence of two of their friends. They invited one of their friends to take part in the assault but he was stopped by the other friend. After her ordeal, the woman went home where she reported the incident. The following day she opened a case at Palmietfontein Police Station. After investigations, the duo were later arrested and charged with rape.

During trial, both accused denied ever having sex with the complainant, claiming that they were only drinking liquor with her at the crime scene and were also drunk to the extent that they passed out and someone else might have raped the victim at that point.

Advocate Loyiso Methuso, for the state, presented evidence of the victim, one of the friends who witnessed the rape, as well as the person to whom the victim made the first report. Both rapists testified in their defence. The court found the victim's evidence was corroborated on material aspects by the other witnesses and found Mothibe and Rampeyi's versions false and very far from the truth. The court convicted both men as charged on 10 October last year.

The defence attorney requested remand thereafter, but did not appear again on various dates set by the court for sentencing. On Monday, the matter was taken over by a new private attorney who argued on behalf of the convicted rapists in mitigation of sentence. The court found substantial and compelling circumstances existed justifying deviation

from life imprisonment and subsequently sentenced each of them to 20 years imprisonment. Both were declared unfit to possess firearms.

Their applications for leave to appeal against convictions were immediately dismissed by the court.

The NPA welcomes the sentences.

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