

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: GANG RAPISTS SENTENCED HARSHLY

Last week, the Mthatha High Court, sitting in Sterkspruit, convicted and sentenced Siyabonga Phanya (25), Siphamandla Jikani (27) and Aviwe Busakwe (19) for raping a 15 year-old girl five years ago. Phanya was sentenced to two life terms on two counts of rape and eight years for kidnapping, the two latter sentences ordered to run concurrently with the sentence on the first count of rape. Jikani was sentenced to life imprisonment on a count of rape, and Busakwe, who was 15 years old when he committed the offence, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. Their names have been listed in the register of sexual offenders.

According to evidence presented in court, on 11 May 2012, the victim was at her home at Ngquba Village in the district of Sterkspruit and the three offenders arrived. Phanya, who was armed with a knife, made sexual advances to the victim but the young girl ran away but he chased her. When Phanya caught up with the victim, he dragged her to a secluded place where he was joined by his two accomplices who held down the victim while Phanya raped her twice. Jikani and Busakwe then took turns raping the teenager before leaving her with Phanya, who assaulted the victim and threatened to kill her if she told anyone.

The victim, who knew the perpetrators because they reside in the same village as her, reported the matter and she was examined by a doctor and DNA samples were taken.

During the trial, the trio pleaded not guilty, but, Advocate Mduduzi Mzila, for the state, led evidence from witnesses and they were linked to the crime by DNA evidence.

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

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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