

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 21 AUGUST 2017

RE: GANG-RAPISTS SENTENCED TO DOUBLE LIFE

Last week, the Mount Frere Regional Court sentenced Katiso Ralikotsi (25), Bandile Fikanisi (21) and Kwandile Moleko (20) to two life imprisonment terms after they were found guilty of gang-raping two high school girls four years ago. The court also sentenced the trio to five years for housebreaking with intent to commit a crime. The five-year sentence was ordered to run concurrently with one life sentence.

Evidence presented in court was that on the night of 24 August 2013, four men broke into the house in which two teenage girls (both 16) were boarding so that they could be nearer to the school they attended in Madamini village in the District of Mount Frere. After gaining entry to the house, the men threatened the occupants with a knife and hammer, and took turns raping them for the whole night. In the morning, they left and the girls reported the rape to a traditional leader who summoned the police. The four suspects were identified by the victims and were found in possession of a cell phone they stole from them.

During the trial, prosecutor Chumile Mkentane led evidence of the victims and presented DNA results, which linked the three rapists to the crime. The trio's accomplice has since died during the course of the trial. Magistrate Zanekhaya Gxarhisa found the threesome guilty and sentenced them accordingly.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will deter other would-be rapists who prey on defenceless women and children.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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