

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: LIFE AND 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPIST

Bonginkosi Musawakhe Nhleko (27) was sentenced to a life term and ten years imprisonment in the Madadeni Regional Court after pleading guilty to raping two women in 2016. Both incidents happened in the Osizweni area.

In the first incident, the 18-year-old victim was at her boyfriend's house in January 2016. Nhleko was at a neighbouring house when the victim's boyfriend came there as well. Nhleko used the opportunity to go to the boyfriend's house and knocked on the door – pretending to be him.

When the victim opened the door, he walked in and pointed a knife at her. He pushed her onto the bed and raped her. He then fled the scene. The victim reported the incident to her boyfriend, who recognised Nhleko from their meeting at the neighbour's house. He was able to describe Nhleko, which led to his arrest.

Later in the year, while out on bail, after an opposed bail application, Nhleko then raped the second victim. The incident occurred when the 21-year-old victim was returning home from her neighbour's house. Nhleko pointed a firearm at her and forced her to an abandoned house in a secluded area where he assaulted and strangled her.

He eventually overpowered her and raped her twice. He also stabbed her several times on her private parts. The victim tried to fight back, using the firearm that he had left on the ground, only to discover it was a toy.

Nhleko then let go of her and threatened to kill her family if she went to the police. She managed to walk home and was taken to hospital. The doctor who tended to her later testified in court that the injuries sustained on her vagina were so severe that she had to

be sedated and taken to theatre for stitching. Nhleko was arrested after the investigating officer traced the victim's phone. He was also linked by DNA evidence.

Regional Court Prosecutor, Khethiwe (Katey) Kunene handed in the Victim Impact Statements facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Sthembile Cebekhulu and compiled by the victims. In her statement, the first victim said that she was afraid of men and feels ashamed by what happened. She also said that her personality had changed and she hates the person that she has become.

The second victim addressed the court directly, saying that the incident had greatly affected her family, as she felt like they carried the guilt of what happened to her. She also mentioned that her personality had changed and she was now an introvert who does not enjoy being around people. She told the court that she felt as if people could tell that she was raped, as if it was written all over her body.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu-Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu commented, "The conviction and sentence in this matter is welcomed and the prosecutors and SAPS who worked on the matter are commended. The role of DNA in these matters and how it can assist with identification is noted, especially in cases where the perpetrator is unknown to the victim. It thus becomes important that victims report matters as early as possible, to enable the scientific process to be followed. In as much as the accused pleaded guilty, he committed two sexual offence violations against two women. The usage of the Victim Impact Statement is welcomed as it has allowed the victims to express the impact that the actions of the accused has had on them. They were provided with an opportunity to express themselves in as much as the accused pleaded guilty. The NPA will continue to focus on the prosecution of Gender Based Violence (GBV) matters."

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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