

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 03 APRIL 2017**

**RE: LIFE & 15 YEARS FOR RAPIST**

Sifiso Makhatini (30) was sentenced to a term of life imprisonment and 15 years in the KwaDukuza Regional Court last week for the rape and robbery he committed in the KwaDukuza area.

The complainant was walking in the Darnall area when she crossed paths with the accused and his accomplice. The accused threatened her with a firearm and demanded her cell phone and handbag. They then forced her into a sugar cane field, tied her up and raped her. While they were going through the contents of her bag, the woman tried to escape. She was however, caught and raped again by the men. They also used a knife to cut her on her thigh. The accused and his accomplice fled the scene leaving the woman to free herself. A few months later, the complainant recognised the accused at a taxi rank. The police were alerted and he was arrested.

Apart from the accused being identified by the complainant, he was also positively linked via DNA that was found on the complainant.

In a victim impact statement compiled by the complainant and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Princess Mlangeni the complainant gave an account of how the ordeal has affected her mentally, physically and emotionally. She indicated that she had great difficulty in dealing with the incredibly brutal ordeal and that she could no longer have a stable relationship with a man.

The accused was then sentenced to life imprisonment for the rape and 15 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances. The matter was successfully prosecuted by Regional Court Prosecutors Paul Nel and Aron Mbedeni.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Advocate Moipone Noko, 'I hope that this sentence sends out a severe and clear message to would-be rapists that we will not tolerate crimes of this nature.'

Kind Regards,

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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