

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 12 MARCH 2020**

**RE: LIFE AND TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPISTS**

The Ntuzuma Regional Court sentenced Bongani Nzuzwa and his cousin Sbusiso Sifiso Nzuzwa last week to life and ten years imprisonment for the rape and attempted murder of a 34-year-old woman in December 2017.

The accused and the complainant all lived in the Inanda area. On the day of the offence, the men accosted the complainant as she returned home from a tuck shop. Armed with a firearm and knife, they threatened and assaulted her. She was then forcefully carried to a bush where they raped her. Passers-by heard her cries for help and came to her aid, causing the men to flee. Due to the severity of the assault, she lost consciousness after the ordeal.

Bongani was arrested a week later when the complainant pointed him out to Police and Sbusiso was arrested some time after.

In court, State Advocate Jenisha Sewbaran led the testimonies of the complainant and her sister, as well as the doctor who examined the complainant after the incident. In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Sewbaran submitted a Victim Impact Statement compiled by the complainant and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Xolile Mzobe. In her statement, the complainant said that she suffered severe emotional, psychological and physical trauma after the incident and lived in constant fear. The community also humiliated her by labelling her as a raped person.

The men were sentenced to life imprisonment for rape and 10 years for attempted murder.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu said, "The complainant has expressed her fears and feelings with regards to how the crime has

affected her, so it is a welcomed respite that the accused have been removed from society. We hope that sentences like this instils the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. Well done to the officials involved in the finalisation of this matter."

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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