

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN SENTENCED TO 2 LIVES FOR DOUBLE RAPE & 15 YEARS FOR MURDER

A 35 year-old man was sentenced to 2 life terms and 20 years by the Johannesburg High Court today after he was found guilty of murder, kidnapping and 2 counts of rape.

Acting Judge, Radasi imposed the sentence to Phumzile Nekene of Mogale City for murdering Paul Jacques April and raping and kidnapping another complainant which the court ordered her name be withheld to avoid secondary victimisation. Nekene has been in custody for six months awaiting trial. He also had a previous conviction of assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm. The court ordered the 2 life terms to run concurrent with 15 years for murder and 5 years for kidnapping.

The incidents took place on 13 November 2016 in Randfontein. April and the complainant were walking home together with the accused. The accused suddenly produced a knife, grabbed April and stabbed him to death. The accused then forced the complainant to a veld where he forcefully undressed and then raped her. He forced the complainant to accompany him to another place, prior their arrival, he raped her again.

Regardless of the overwhelming evidence against him, the accused maintained his innocence by pleading not guilty. The defence's mitigating factors focussed on the fact that the accused had been under the influence of alcohol during the commission of the crimes and he was also detained awaiting trial.

In response, Senior State Advocate Paul Nel presented a victim impact statement which comprehensively detailed how traumatised the complainant is still is and feels that the accused had denied her the right to say no when she does not want to engage in sexual intercourse.

In handing down the sentence, the presiding officer adjudicated that it would be a flimsy reason for the court to consider the period Nekene spent in custody as a compelling circumstance to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence.

Kind Regards,

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