

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 30 APRIL 2019

RE: MATSULU MAN SENTENCED TO 2 LIFE TERMS AND 30 YEARS FOR RAPE AND ROBBERY

Today, 30 April 2019, the Nelspruit Regional Court sentenced a twenty- two year old man of Matsulu to two life sentences and an additional 30 years imprisonment after he was convicted on three counts of rape, one count of robbery with aggravating circumstances and another two counts of housebreaking.

Aubrey Mnisi undertook his reign of terror over a period of one year, spanning from 2014 to 2015, where he terrorised the people of Matsulu near Nelspruit. Two of his victims are minors.

The court heard that, Mnisi would break into the victim's houses at night, threaten them with a knife, rape them, and sometimes rob them of their belongings. One of the victims was raped and hacked with an axe whilst placing a net and linen on her face to conceal his face.

In another incident, Mnisi dragged a 13 year-old minor from her home to the bushes, threatened her with a knife and raped her, whilst the victim was screaming for help, he threw the soil inside her mouth. Luckily, the victim managed to run back to her neighbours for help and the accused was later arrested. DNA samples were taken and the accused was positively linked with other crimes.

During trial, Mnisi pleaded not guilty to the crimes, instead, he denied the allegations and the Regional Court Prosecutor, Thulani Msibi, led testimonies of 11 state witnesses, some of them told the court how the rape ordeal disturbed and affected their lives and Mnisi was found guilty as charged.

The court took this into consideration when sentence was imposed. The accused was convicted on six counts and was sentenced to life imprisonment on each count of rape and ten years on another rape count, five years imprisonment on each count of house breaking, and another ten years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances. The court ordered these sentences in count 2-6 to run concurrently with sentence in count 1. Effectively, Mnisi will serve life imprisonment.

The court ordered that the accused' s name be entered into the Sexual Offences Register. He was found unfit to possess a firearm and was also declared unfit to work with children .

The NPA applauds the good work done by the team with the hope that the sentence will serve as a deterrent to other criminals and address the scourge of sexual violence in our society.

Kind Regards,

Monica Nyuswa

Regional Spokesperson: DPP: Mpumalanga Satellite Office

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