

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 29 MAY 2015**

**RE: JUSTICE FOR INFANT'S HORROR**

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Yesterday, Lucky Mahlatsi Nkoana (24) was handed a life sentence running concurrently with a 2 years and 6 months imprisonment term by the South Gauteng High Court for raping a 23 month old boy.

The accused was convicted of rape, housebreaking and assault. The incident happened at the infants' home in Braamfischerville on May 2014 where he was left unattended by his mother. The public was outraged when the child sustained horrific injuries due to the rape.

The accused maintained his innocence throughout the trial despite DNA evidence extracted from the child that directly linked him to the crime nor shown any remorse as per evidence heard from the probation officer's pre-sentence report submitted in court.

The state's case relied mostly on expert evidence. State advocate Shubnum Singh argued that the crime violated the child's rights and that the horror that the child went through can never be ignored. In praying for a life imprisonment term, advocate Singh described the offence as brutal and one that disregarded the right to dignity and privacy as enshrined in the Constitution. She further requested that the accused name be included in the national register for sexual offenders.

In passing sentence, judge Reginald Dama expressed his shock at the evil deeds of the accused that violated a defenceless creature in such a manner. He considered that society is dependent on law enforcement authorities for safety and security and added that the protection of children is paramount.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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