

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 15 MARCH 2017

RE: NOTORIOUS NGCOBO RAPIST SENTENCED TWICE IN ONE WEEK

On Monday, 06 March 2017, the Ngcobo Regional Court sentenced Thokozani Mapikana (21) to ten years imprisonment for raping a 32 year-old woman last year. Mapikana was sentenced by the same court to seven years imprisonment on Friday, 10 March 2017, for another rape of a 39 year-old woman. Both victims and the rapist are from the same village of Ntibaneni in the district of Ngcobo.

In the first case, evidence presented in court is that on the night of 22 September 2016, Mapikana went to the victim's home where he knocked on the door and was let in by the victim who is known to him. The victim was with her 8 year-old daughter. Once he got inside, Mapikana dragged the unsuspecting victim out of the room and raped her outside. In the process, the victim sustained neck bruises and subconjunctival haemorrhage on her left eye as a result of assault by the rapist.

Due to the overwhelming evidence against him, Mapikana, who has a previous conviction of assault committed in 2013 and is currently serving a six months prison term for escaping from legal custody, pleaded guilty to the charge of rape and was duly sentenced.

In the second case, Mapikana was sentenced to an effective seven years imprisonment for rape, housebreaking and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The crimes were committed on 05 June 2012 when Mapikana was still 16 years of age. His 39 year-old victim was from his homestead in the evening with a disabled woman and her 1 year-old child. She asked Mapikana to accompany them as she trusted him but on the way the rapist told her he wanted to have sex, cut her panty with a bush knife and raped her. When the victim arrived home she reported the matter to her relative and Mapikana's mother telephonically. Shortly afterwards, Mapikana arrived at the victims place, kicked the door open, entered and assaulted her with a bush knife, instructing her to go and tell his mother that he did not rape her. The victim was rescued by her brother who dispossessed Mapikana of the bush knife.

During the trial, Mapikana pleaded not guilty but the court was convinced otherwise. In sentencing him, the court considered that he was still 16 years old when committing the offences and sentenced him to five years for rape, and two years for housebreaking and assault, treated as one for the purpose of sentence. The state successfully opposed requests by the defence to have these sentences run concurrently with the previously imposed 10 year-sentence for the separate rape conviction.

Both cases were prosecuted by regional court prosecutor Loyiso Methuso.

Mapikana's reign of terror in Ntibaneni village prompted the villagers to stage demonstrations in court at all his court appearances, with the community alleging that he committed as many as nine other rapes since he was 15 years old but there was no evidence linking him to those rapes.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will restore the community's confidence in the Criminal Justice System.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

Enquiries: ltyal@npa.gov.za

047 502 2630