

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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**RE: MAN SENTENCED TO NINE LIFE TERMS PLUS 20 YEARS
IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE**

Mhlonishwa Elias Mathebula (33) was given nine life sentences and 90 years after he pleaded guilty to 18 counts of rape in the Scottburgh Regional Court, last week on Friday.

From the period of 2008 to 2013, Mathebula accosted females in the south coast area mainly Umzinto, Hibberdene, Dududu and Msinsini. He targeted women in the early morning as they made their way to either school or work and he would drag them into the nearby sugarcane fields to rape and assault them. He sometimes acted alone and on occasion with an accomplice whom he did not identify. The complainants were aged between 14 years to 40 years and in one instance he raped both a mother and daughter.

In aggravation of sentence, regional court prosecutor, Kalpana Makanjee handed in victim impact statements to the court wherein the various complainants expressed the negative and shocking impact these rapes have had on their lives.

Makanjee also led the evidence of an expert witness, a clinical psychologist who testified on serial offenders. This witness made a recommendation to the court that Mathebula should not be given parole as he was a danger to society.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes the sentence. It views this sentence as appropriate given the harsh and heinous crimes that were committed.

Kind Regards,

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