

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPISTS GET LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Two regional courts sentenced two men to life imprisonment in two separate rape cases, where the same modus-operandi was used.

The Mqanduli Regional Court sentenced 28-year-old Sandile Ntsomi for raping a 17-year-old girl. On the night of 09 March 2019, the 17-year-old victim was walking with her 18-year-old boyfriend to his home at Mpame area in the district of Mqanduli at about 20h00. They were accosted by the bush knife-wielding Ntsomi. He told the boyfriend to run away if he did not want to die.

While the terrified boyfriend was running away, Ntsomi dragged the screaming young woman to his home after telling her that he could not sleep alone because it was cold and raining. Upon arrival at his home, Ntsomi put the bush knife on the victim's throat and forced her to undress before raping her numerous times.

Ntsomi, who was out on parole for a 12-year robbery sentence, only released the victim at about 05h00 the following morning. The victim immediately went to report the rape to the headman who summoned the police and Ntsomi was arrested.

In the second case, the Cacadu (formerly Lady Frere) Regional Court sentenced 32-year-old Luyanda Tshisa to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of raping a 21-year-old woman. On the evening of 16 September 2019, the woman was walking with her boyfriend, also 21 years old at Machubeni area in the district of Cacadu. Tshisa interrupted and threatened them with a knife.

He chased the boyfriend away and dragged the victim to an open field and raped her.

He then forcefully took the woman to his home where he raped her for the second time. He then instructed her to return to her home and must never attempt to see her boyfriend again nor tell anyone about the rape or he would kill her.

Both men pleaded not guilty claiming that the sex was consensual. Prosecutors, Melikhaya Dyakopu and Avumile Bikitsha, managed to secure the conviction and asked the respective courts to impose life imprisonment sentences because the victims were violently raped more than once. The courts agreed and sentenced them accordingly.

The NPA welcomes the sentences.

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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