

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 29 January 2018**

**RE: RAPIST GETS 23 YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT**

On 25 January 2018, Mpho Sipho Mabuza (36) was sentenced by Nelspruit Regional Court to 23 years direct imprisonment for three counts of rape.

In December 2014, a nine year- old female victim was staying with her stepfather in KaNyamazane. A stepfather is the accused in the matter and the victim's mother was hospitalised. Mabuza sent her to the shop and when she returned he pushed her into his bedroom and raped her.

The victim testified two other incidents where the accused raped her and threatened to kill her if she reports it to anyone. Fortunately, her mother was discharged from the hospital. In October 2015, the victim and her mother went to stay with relatives and she reported the incident to her grandmother. Then the accused was arrested and remained in custody.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the offence and the Regional Prosecutor, Thulani Msibi, led evidence of the victim with assistance of an intermediary. The court further led evidence of a grandmother of a victim and the medical expert. The state argued for a lengthy time of imprisonment as the accused was in a trust position with the victim and should protect her not prey on her as an easy target.

The accused was in custody since 13 October 2015 and was sentenced to 23 years imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and will continue to stem the tide of criminality by imposing harsh sentences to those who commit similar crimes.

Kind Regards,

**Monica Nyuswa**  
**Regional Communications Manager**  
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