## **Media Statement**



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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**RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE** 

On Monday, 18 November 2019, the Port Elizabeth Regional Court sentenced Sikhumbuzo Dike (31) to life imprisonment after convicting him on a count of rape. The court also convicted him on a charge of kidnapping to which it sentenced him to two years, ordering it to run concurrently with the life sentence.

Evidence presented in court is that in the early hours of 26 May this year, Dike met the 20 year-old woman while she was walking home with her two male friends from a tavern in Walmer Location. He was known to the woman but they were not in a relationship. At knifepoint, he dragged the woman to his home while threatening to kill her male friends who tried to intervene and follow them. On arrival at his home, he showed the terrified victim two bullets that were in his wallet, telling her he would put one of the bullets through her head should she resist, and proceeded to rape her twice. He only released her at daytime the following day.

The victim immediately went to report the rape soon after gaining her freedom and Dike, who was out on parole after serving half of an eight-year sentence for house robbery, was arrested on the same day. During trial, he pleaded not guilty but Regional Court Prosecutor Mxolisi Bebula managed to convince the court otherwise, by leading the evidence of the victim and one of her friends.

Addressing the court on an appropriate sentence, prosecutor Bebula argued that Dike was a violent criminal who deserved to be removed from society for the longest time. In addition, Dike committed the rape while out on parole on another crime involving violence, where he used a knife during a house robbery. The state also proved another previous conviction of robbery against the rapist. Magistrate Cooney concurred and sentenced him accordingly.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

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