

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 25 APRIL 2018

RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE TERMS PLUS 31 YEARS

Yesterday, the KwaBhaca (previously called Mount Frere) Regional Court sentenced Manxubandile Ntshobololo (24) to two life imprisonment terms after he was found guilty on a number of offences committed against school girl boarders, commonly known as *Amagxamesi*. The court convicted and sentenced the rapist to two life terms for two counts of rape and an additional fifteen years for another count of rape, five years for each of two counts of kidnapping and three years for two counts of housebreaking with intent to commit a crime.

According to evidence presented in court, the teenage victims, aged between 16 and 19, were all boarding at Luyengweni village in the district of KwaBhaca so that they could be nearer to their school, Sonqishe High School. On the night of 26 August 2016, the 16 year-old victim was sleeping alone when a man, unknown to her, kicked the door to her room open and raped her in the dark. The assailant fled afterwards but left behind a short pair of trousers that the victim, who could not identify him, took to the police when she went to report the rape.

On the night of 19 February, 2017, two teenagers were sleeping in their room when they heard that there was a third person forcing himself onto them in their bed. One of the girls jumped and switched the lights on. A fight ensued during which the intruder stabbed the girls with a knife, but not before the mask he was wearing fell off. He then tied the two girls, raped both of them and fled with their cellphones. The victims managed to untie themselves and went to report the rapes to their landlord, who summoned the community and a manhunt ensued for the rapist, who was identified by the victims as Ntshobololo, a relative to one of the victims.

When the community caught Ntshobololo, he had the victim's cellphones in his possession and used condoms in his pocket. He was taken to the police station and investigations by Constable Ntobeko Potolwane linked him to the short trousers left

behind in the 2016 rape. During the trial, Ntshobololo pleaded not guilty but the state presented evidence, including DNA results, linking him to all the rapes, and magistrate Patiswa Mjame found him guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, prosecutor Chumile Mkentane, urged the court to take into consideration that the trend of raping *Amagxamesi*, who are forced by circumstances to stay on their own while trying to get education, was prevalent. Further stating that there were still many unsolved cases similar to this one in the KwaBhaca area. The state prayed for the harshest sentence and the court concurred, and did not order the sentences to run concurrently.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded rapists who intend targeting defenceless women and children.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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