

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPISTS SENTENCED

Last week Friday, the Nelspruit High Court sentenced Malibongwe Jele (22) and Tshepo Maseko (21) to various sentences for multiple counts of rapes and robbery with aggravating circumstances. All these crimes were committed in KaBokweni between September 2012 to September 2013 next to Ngodini High School in the district of Nelspruit.

The two accused targeted women walking on the streets in the evening, threatened them with a firearm, robbed them of their belongings and raped them. The accused were unknown to the victims until Malibongwe Jele was arrested after being linked with one count via DNA which automatically linked him with other rapes which were previously reported in that area and was also charged for those crimes.

During the trial, Accused 1 refused to plead to the charges as a result a court had to enter a plea of not guilty. He later refused to co-operate with the court and at that stage the police were ordered to bring the accused to court and when he arrived in court, he assaulted a police officer while the court was in session which led to court adjournment.

The accused did not make any admissions in terms of Section 220 of the Criminal Procedure Act, however, Advocate Ntsika Mpolweni led evidence of all witnesses that were involved in these cases, evidence of the police officers as well as DNA evidence. After the pair was convicted, the state further led evidence of victim impact report.

The court found both Accused 1 and 2 guilty as charged. Accused 1, was sentenced to 82 years direct imprisonment for 4 counts of rape and 5 counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances. Accused 2, was sentenced to 18 years direct imprisonment for 1 count of rape and 1 count of robbery with aggravating circumstances.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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