

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 03 APRIL 2017**

**RE: RHODESPARK TRIO REMOVED FROM SOCIETY**

Three men convicted for the robbery, rapes and murders of Rhodespark in Kensington were sentenced to four life imprisonment terms by the Johannesburg High Court on Friday, 31 March 2017.

Two couples took a walk in the park when they were accosted by ten men, and their husbands were ordered to strip naked and thrown into a dam in the park, where they later died of drowning. Thereafter, both wives were sexually molested with one of them being raped by one of the convicts. Only three of the perpetrators were arrested, whilst, the others fled the country.

Leading evidence in aggravation of sentence, the state called Professor Malose Langa from Witwatersrand University, who presented a victim impact report. The report contained details about the trauma suffered by the two widows and how the ordeal will forever be engraved in their minds. It further described the affection and financial loss suffered due to the death of their spouses.

State Advocate Monde Mbaqa, argued that there were no compelling and substantial circumstances that would warrant a deviation from the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for each of the two murders and rapes.

The court found that the murders were a careless act from the perpetrators who lacked mercy during the commission of these crimes, and decided that the trio be removed from society for a lengthy period.

Immediately after sentencing, the trio brought applications for leave to appeal which were vehemently opposed by Advocate Mbaqa and dismissed by the court.

The NPA strives to fulfil its prosecutorial mandate and will stop at nothing to deliver justice to victims of crime.

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Louw**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng**

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