

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: SERIAL RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE PLUS 150 YEARS

On Monday, 13 January 2020, the Mthatha High Court sentenced Thando Madikiza (34) to life imprisonment and additional 150 years, after he pleaded guilty to six counts of rape, one count of sexual assault and four counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances. Judge Buyiswa Majiki sentenced Madikiza to life imprisonment for the rape of a 14 year-old girl, and 15 years for each of the other counts. The court ordered that the life sentence run concurrently with the cumulative total of years in respect to other counts, which add up to 150 years.

Between May 2010 and June 2016, Madikiza, of Chris Hani Park near Mthatha, went on a crime spree committing a range of offences in the Western Areas of Mthatha targeting young women between the ages of 14 and 23. He attacked his victims while they were in the sanctuary of their homes, using the same operandi. He would pretend to be looking for a person living in that house or knowing the parent of the victim. Once he was let inside the homes of the victims, he would threaten them with a knife or firearm, assault and rape them, some in the presence of young children. He would then proceed to rob the victims of their belongings such as cell phones, tablets, laptops, DVD players, cash and clothing. None of the victims knew the rapist.

Madikiza was only linked to the multiple rapes when he was arrested on 06 June 2017 after raping his ex-girlfriend and robbing another victim. While in custody for those crimes, for which he was sentenced to 32 years by the Mthatha Regional Court, DNA profiling was done and it matched the DNA swabs obtained from the victims in the earlier rapes.

Arguing in aggravation of sentence, State Advocate Luvuyo Pomolo told the court that Madikiza's guilty plea was not a sign of remorse but regret that he had been caught and realised that the state had overwhelming evidence, which left him with no way of explaining himself out. The court concurred, with Judge Majiki stating that the crimes

committed by the serial rapist remain very serious, heinous and in total disregard of the individuals' freedom and right of protection at home.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

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