

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: TAXI OWNER FOUND GUILTY BY HARTSWATER COURT FOR RAPE AND ATTEMPTED MURDER

The Hartswater Magistrates' Court has handed down a prison sentence of 20 years to a 31 year-old taxi owner Sibusiso Mahlangu.

On the day of 23 August 2012, a 19 year-old female victim left a local tavern with the taxi owner, who is the accused. The two left in his taxi and when the victim realised that the accused was not driving in the direction of her home as promised, she jumped out. The accused then ran over her, before loading her into the taxi and raped her.

After he finished with this despicable act, the accused dropped the victim off in Pampierstad and fled. The victim managed to report the incident and she was then hospitalised for seven days as a result of the injuries she sustained during her ordeal.

The accused was arrested and released on bail but failed to appear in court. A warrant of arrest was then issued and he was arrested in 2019 in Nelspruit. He remained in custody until his court appearance.

During the trial, the accused was found guilty and sentenced to 10 years direct imprisonment for rape, 4 years for kidnapping, and 6 years for attempted murder. "The sentencing of the accused couldn't have happened at the right time, as the country is advocating the fight against the scourge of violence against women and children," said the Acting DPP, Advocate Abraham Botha.

Mojalefa Senokoatsane

NPA Regional Spokesperson
Northern Cape
MSenokoatsane@npa.gov.za
073 423 3539