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## Mathe has 8 months to wait for trial to start

**SANDRA LIEBERUM  
CORRESPONDENT**

**CHARGED** with escaping from C-Max prison, and 75 other counts, Ananias Mathe, 31, appeared in the Johannesburg High Court for the first time yesterday only to learn that it will be another eight months before he stands trial.

Mathe, a Mozambican national who claims to be a former Frelimo soldier, appeared to be in better health. He looked, and was said to be, in ill health during his lower court appearances.

The only person to have "disappeared" from C-Max, the slightly built accused was escorted by a number of armed police and a well-built female prison warder.

Mathe is charged with going on a crime spree in Gauteng and elsewhere, robbing, raping, killing family guard dogs and attempting to kill victims who resisted.

Advocate David Mothibi, prosecuting, informed Judge Bosie Mbha that permission had been granted for a centralised trial of all charges. Prior to his last arrest Mathe allegedly moved his criminal operation to the Thabazimbi/Lichtenburg areas.

According to the High Court indictment Mathe stole 22 cellphones and 13 vehicles. He also killed (by poison or shooting) 17 dogs to facilitate his numerous alleged house robberies.



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