

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 21 AUGUST 2015

RE: TWO POLICE OFFICERS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE

Two police officers who were stationed at Botshabelo Police Station have been sentenced to life imprisonment each by the Bloemfontein Regional court after they were convicted of rape.

Magistrate Leavit Mkansi sentenced sergeants Robert Maduna (48) and Moses Khotle (56) to life imprisonment for raping a woman they were transporting from Botshabelo Magistrate's Court to Kroonstad Prison on 29 August 2012.

The court heard that on the day of the incident, the accused transported the complainant to Kroonstad where she was being detained after her court appearance. The complainant was sitting in the front seat with the accused.

Khotle asked Maduna to pull over as he wanted to answer the call of nature on the N1 between Verkeerdevlei and Winburg. The complainant requested to get out as she had to answer the same call of nature. When she came back she found both the accused standing at the back of the vehicle. They instructed her to get into the back of the bakkie. Maduna pushed her into the back of the bakkie and Khotle locked both the complainant and Maduna in the back and drove off.

Maduna raped the complainant while Khotle was driving the car. The court heard that Maduna called Khotle instructing him to drive faster when the complainant started screaming. When Maduna was done raping her, Khotle pulled over, unlocked the back door for Maduna to get out and the two officers sat in the front seat leaving the complainant at the back until they reached their destination.

The complainant reported the matter to one of the nurses at Kroonstad Prison and the accused were arrested the following day.

Arguing in aggravation of sentence, the State Prosecutor, Emmanuel Ali requested the court to impose life sentence on both accused because even though Khotle did not rape the complainant he acted on common purpose because he assisted Maduna.

In passing sentence magistrate Mkansi stated that the fact that the accused were police officers entrusted with the custody of the complainant and had a duty to protect her as she was a defenceless detainee outweighs all mitigating factors.

He further stated that it is the duty of the courts to send a message that this kind of behaviour is not going to be tolerated and subsequently sentenced both of them to life imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to would-be rapists who prey on vulnerable people.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

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