

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 24 AUGUST 2015

RE: PAROLEE SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE

A 24 year-old man from Phahameng Township in Bultfontein has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after he was convicted by the Odendaalsrus Regional Court.

Magistrate Suzan Mentjies sentenced Kleinbooi Baleni to an effective 15 years imprisonment for raping a 43-year-old woman on 25 October 2014.

According to the charge sheet, the complainant and her husband were walking home from a local tavern late at night when a quarrel started between the couple. In anger, the husband hurried home leaving the complainant alone in the street.

The complainant was walking alone when she was confronted by the accused who hit her with a fist on her mouth and strangled her. He dragged her to a nearby house and raped her in a toilet. The accused left the complainant in the toilet after raping her and she went to her sister's house to report the ordeal. The accused was arrested the following day.

In court the accused stated that the intercourse was consensual but the state prosecutor, Abram Xaba rejected this version because if it was consensual the accused would have not assaulted the complainant. Xaba further stated that women should be protected from people like the accused who did not only violate the complainant by raping but also violated her right to walk freely in the street without fear of being attacked and raped. He informed the court that the accused is not a candidate for rehabilitation because he committed this offence while on parole for a similar offence.

Magistrate Mentjies sentenced the accused to an effective 15 years 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

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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