

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 31 AUGUST 2015**

**RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT**

A 21 year-old man from Heidedal in Bloemfontein has today been sentenced to seven years imprisonment by the Bloemfontein Regional Court after he was convicted of raping a 25 year-old woman. Magistrate Monde Matshaya sentenced Ontlotlile Leeuw for raping the complainant on 25 December 2014.

The court heard that the complainant was drinking with her friend and boyfriend when the boyfriend decided to fetch the accused so that he can join them. Later in the evening, the complainant requested to sleep as she was drunk and tired and her friend prepared a bed for her. The complainant went to sleep and her boyfriend slept next to her. Both of them were drunk.

The complainant's friend went into the bedroom and found the accused busy raping the complainant. She screamed when she realised that the complainant was non-responsive. Neighbours came to the house to see what was happening. The accused tried to run away but he was caught by the neighbours. The police were called and the accused was arrested.

In court the accused admitted to having an intercourse with the complainant but said it was consensual as it was the complainant who seduced him. State prosecutor advocate Tshogofatsho Kambi rejected this version. She informed the court that the complainant went to bed as she was drunk and she could not have given consent in a drunken state. She further informed the court that the complainant had a right to get drunk and sleep peacefully without fear of being raped.

In passing sentence, magistrate Matshaya said that rape is prevalent in Bloemfontein and the community looks to the courts to deal with this scourge and subsequently sentenced Leeuw to seven years imprisonment.

Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

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

Kind Regards,

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