

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

DATE: 14 SEPTEMBER 2015

RE: BETHLEHEM RAPIST GETS 40 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

The Free State High Court sitting in Bethlehem sentenced a 29 year-old man to 40 years imprisonment after he was convicted of four counts of rape and robbery. Judge Jake Moloi sentenced Tobatse Charles Masangane to 10 years imprisonment for each count of rape he convicted him on and another five years for robbery.

Masangane went on a raping spree between 2012 and 2014 when he raped four women in their houses. The first incident happened on 11 February 2012 when Masangane broke into the house of a 49 year-old woman in the early hours of the morning and raped her. He also robbed the victim of R250.00 cash and a DVD player.

The second incident happened on 17 February 2013. The victim heard a noise coming from her bathroom. When she went to investigate she was confronted by the accused who forced her back into her bedroom and raped before fleeing the scene. In the third incident that happened on 02 February 2014, the accused entered the house of the victim through a garage door that could not lock properly as the house was under construction. He entered the bedroom of the victim, strangled her before dragging to the lounge where he raped her on the floor.

Masangane continued with his raping spree, he went to the house of his last victim at around 09h00 on 09 February 2014 pretending to be an electrician who was there to fix an electrical problem at the house. He told the victim that he has been sent by her husband but the victim told him that he must be mistaken because she does not have a husband. When he realised that the victim is alone, he closed the door, assaulted her before dragging her to the bedroom where he raped her. He left the victim in the bedroom and left the house but the victim ran outside and called for help. Community members chased after the accused and he was arrested.

Masangane pleaded not guilty in court and told the court that he was invited to the houses by the victims who were his girlfriends. State prosecutor, adv Lulama Zweni, requested the court to reject the version of the accused because the victim suffered genital injuries which were as a result of forceful penetration. He further stated that the doctors' medical reports showed that all the victims had scratch marks which could have not happened if there was consent. The accused was linked to all the cases by DNA.

Judge Moloi stated that it is clear that the accused stalked his victims because he was aware of what was happening in their houses and he knew at what time the victims were most vulnerable. Moloi sentenced Masangane to 10 years in prison for each count of rape and five years for robbery. He, however, ordered that the five years sentence for robbery will run concurrently with the sentences of rape making Masangane's sentence and effective 40 years imprisonment.

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,

Phaladi Shuping
Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State
083 699 5900
pshuping@npa.gov.za