

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 14 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**RE: LESOTHO MEN SENTENCED FOR RAPE AND IMMIGRATION OFFENCE**

Sello Makhethhe and Lefu Talasi were sentenced in the Kokstad/Maluti Regional Court last week for rape and immigration offences they committed earlier this year.

In early January, the two accused who are Lesotho nationals entered South Africa illegally. On the way, they met the complainant, an 18 year old woman, who was also walking into the country. The accused walked together with the woman until they reached the Matatiele Belford forest where the accused took turns to rape her. Since it was in the early hours of the morning and she was alone, the complainant continued to walk with the men until they reached a shopping centre in Maluti.

The men were overheard by a local businessman as they discussed their intentions to abandon the traumatised complainant. The businessman rallied up a group of community members and the accused were arrested.

The accused pleaded not guilty and gave their versions to the court. The first accused told the court that the intercourse between him and the complainant was consensual while the second accused denied having intercourse with the woman.

Regional court prosecutor, Ntandazo Jaca led the evidence of a doctor who found the complainant's injuries to be consistent with rape. A clinical psychologist was also called and she told the court that the complainant was mentally retarded.

During cross examination the accused failed to answer questions put to them by the prosecutor and it was evident that their versions were fictitious.

The accused were sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for rape and 24 months imprisonment for entering the country without permits.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Adv Moipone Noko finds the sentence appropriate and in accordance with the crimes committed. "It is indicative of our on-going fight against combatting sexual offences."

Kind Regards,

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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