

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 27 June 2016**

**RE: TWO RAPISTS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

A 25-year old man and a 46-year old woman were on Friday sentenced to life imprisonment each for the rape of a 29-year old woman from Zimbabwe by the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court.

Magistrate Jan Greyvensteyn sentenced Shuping Sydney Gopane and Nyatheng Taaibosch, both from Phase 6 in Turflaagte to life imprisonment after he convicted them of raping the victim in October 2008.

The court heard that Taaibosch was the victim's landlord and they had a good relationship. However, on the day of the incident, the victim arrived home and found Taaibosch sitting with Gopane and the other unknown man. When she entered the house, Taaibosch told Gopane and the unknown man they could do to the victim as they like and should teach her that this is Bloemfontein.

She went out of the house and locked the victim and the two men inside. The men assaulted the victim and raped her. She escaped through a kitchen window and reported the matter to the police.

During the trial, Gopane denied that he attacked and raped the victim and claimed that she was attacked by unknown men in the street. Taaibosch also tried to exonerate herself from the matter but the magistrate found them to be unreliable witnesses.

State prosecutor, Louis York, requested the court to sentence both accused to life imprisonment. He said Taaibosch played a role in the rape because she gave the men an instruction to rape her and locked them in the house with the victim. The magistrate was convinced that Taaibosch was an accomplice in the matter and he subsequently sentenced both of them to life imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State, Advocate Xolisile Khanyile welcomed the sentence. "We hope that the sentence will serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders. It's unfortunate that a woman was in the forefront of such a violent crime being perpetrated against another woman", said Khanyile.

The other man is still unknown as the victim could not identify him.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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