

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO 58 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

A 32 year -old man from Boshoff in the Free State was on Monday sentenced to 58 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to two counts of rape and house breaking by the Free State High Court. Judge President Mahube Molemela sentenced Cornelius Albertus Pieterse to 25 years imprisonment for each count of rape and eight years for house breaking.

The court heard that on 9 March 2014, Pieterse broke into the house of Kitty van der Walt and stole R700 cash, some groceries and a firearm. The stolen items were valued at R4500. She was not at home when her house was broken into.

Later that day, Pieterse went to Kareehof, situated next to Boshoff and convinced three girls aged 14, 13 and 8 years to go with him to the house. He made the children to believe that his is the owner of the house. He offered the girls cool drink and convinced them to sleep over.

Pieterse called the girls one by one to a separate bedroom. One girl refused to go to the bedroom but the other two went on separate occasions and they were raped by Pieterse.

The girls slept over at the house. The next morning they woke up to find that Pieterse is gone. When they went out of the yard, they came across a police officer who enquired about their presence at the house. They informed him what happened and a case was opened against Pieterse. He was arrested on 18 November 2014.

State Prosecutor, Advocate Francois Pienaar requested the court to impose a harsh sentence on the accused because Pieterse has been in conflict with the law since the age of 17. He has an array of previous convictions that include house breaking, theft and indecent assault. He further stated that the victim impact report has detailed how the

incident has affected the victims and it will take some time before they can recover from the ordeal.

In sentencing Pieterse, Judge Molemela considered the fact that he pleaded guilty, is from a broken family and he showed remorse as mitigating factors that warrant her not to impose a mandatory minimum prescribed sentence. She subsequently sentenced him to 25 years for each count of rape and eight years for house breaking. Pieterse will effectively spend 25 years in prison after the judge ordered that the sentences run concurrently.

Judge Molemela further ordered that Pieterse should not be employed to work with children, and he should not be a foster parent, caregiver or adoptive parent of any child if it happens that he is released from prison.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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