

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 02 FEBRUARY 2016**

**RE: RAPIST GETS LIFE IMPRISONMENT PLUS 4 YEARS**

The Tzaneen Regional Court sentenced Patrick Tshwarelo Raolane (29) to life plus four years imprisonment after he was convicted for raping and kidnapping a 19 year-old girl on Tuesday.

The crimes were committed on 16 April 2015 at Mothakong village in the Bolobedu area while the girl was coming from the church. She met the accused who grabbed and dragged her to a mango tree where he raped her.

Thereafter, the accused took the victim to an unoccupied house where he raped her for a second time. The accused furthermore went to a nearby tuck shop where he wanted to buy a cigarette. Thereafter, the victim alerted a member of the community that she had been raped and kidnapped.

During the trial, the accused pleaded not guilty and testified that the victim consented to sexual intercourse. However, Regional Court Prosecutor, Paul Rikhotso led the evidence of the complainant as well as that of the member of the public who was present at the tuck shop and DNA evidence that proved beyond reasonable doubt.

The court rejected the version of the accused and convicted the accused of two counts of rape and one count of kidnapping.

During sentencing, a victim impact report compiled by the Clinical Psychologist was presented to court by the prosecutor.

He argued that, there were no substantial and compelling circumstances present and argued for a sentence of life imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi- Dzhangi**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo**

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