

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 15 MARCH 2018

RE: DUO SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR RAPE

Two men from Bohlokong Township in Bethlehem, were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Bethlehem Regional Court after they were found guilty of rape, robbery with aggravating circumstances, compelled sexual assault and compelling or causing a person to witness a sexual offence.

Magistrate Morolong sentenced Teboho Taemane (25) and Teboho Mohomane (27) to life imprisonment for raping a 20 year-old woman, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, seven years for compelled sexual assault and another seven years for compelling a person to witness a sexual offence. The accused robbed the complainant and her boyfriend of three cellular phones and a pair of takkies.

The court heard that the complainant's boyfriend was working at a local tavern and on the night of November 5, 2017 he was walking home with his girlfriend after knocking off when they were accosted by the two accused.

The complainant and her boyfriend were forced to a secluded spot by the two accused who threatened them with knives. They forced the boyfriend to have sexual intercourse whilst the accused watched. They told the boyfriend that he is not doing it properly and started raping the complainant.

The boyfriend managed to run away. The accused then forced the complainant to walk with them to another spot where they raped her again. The boyfriend reported the matter to the police and the accused were arrested.

In court, the two accused informed the court that they did not rape the complainant but they had a consensual intercourse. However, State Prosecutor, Liezell Louw, argued that

there is no way the complainant could have agreed to have a consensual intercourse with two men in front of her boyfriend at a secluded spot.

She argued that the victim impact statement (VIS) that was compiled by the Court Preparation Officer, Julia Mofokeng, clearly details the trauma the complainant went through and how her life changed after the incident. In the VIS, the complainant states that she no longer goes out at night because she is afraid she may fall victim of rape again.

Louw requested the court to sentence the accused to a mandatory life imprisonment as prescribed by the law because the accused did not provide the court with substantial and compelling circumstances for the court to impose a lesser sentence.

The magistrate concurred with the prosecutor and subsequently sentenced the two men to life imprisonment each for rape, 15 years each for robbery with aggravating circumstances, seven years each for compelled sexual assault and another seven years for compelling or causing another person to witness a sexual offence.

The accused will effectively serve life imprisonment after the magistrate ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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