

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 02 AUGUST 2018

RE: GOLF COURSE RAPIST SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

The Free State High Court sitting in Ficksburg has today sentenced a 34-year old man to an effective 30 years imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to seven counts of rape and another seven counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances. Judge Phillip Loubser sentenced Sello Thomas Mkhafu for offences that happened between June 2016 and September 2017.

Mkhafu went on a raping spree when he preyed on women who were on their way to a hiking spot next to the golf course in Ficksburg. He raped the first complainant on 1 June 2016. The 23-year old woman was on her way to a hiking spot. She wanted to go to Rosendal when she met Mkhafu who told her that his car was parked next to the golf course and he can drive with her to Rosendal. When they arrived at the golf course, he threatened her with a knife and raped her before taking her belongings.

He raped the second woman, aged 21, on 12 June 2016 using the same modus operandi. Mkhafu continued with his raping spree when, on 13 November 2016, he and other two unknown men confronted a 36-year old woman who was walking home with her boyfriend. The three men threatened the boyfriend with knives and raped the complainant. They also robbed her of her belongings.

On 24 December 2016, Mkhafu and another unknown man preyed on a 26-year old woman who was on her way to a hiking spot. They threatened her with a firearm and a knife before dragging her to a golf course where they raped her and robbed her of her belongings.

Mkhafu struck again on 13 August 2017 when he raped a 27-year old woman and robbed her of her belongings. A month later he approached a 20-year old woman who was on

her way to a hiking spot. He offered to help her with her bags but forced her into the bush where he raped her at knifepoint. He also took her belongings.

Mkhafu committed another rape on 13 September 2017 when he raped a 21-year old woman at the golf course. He also robbed her of her belongings. He was arrested on 24 October 2017. Some of the complainants identified him at an identification parade and the DNA evidence also linked him to the rape charges.

Judge Loubser sentenced Mkhafu to 20 years for each of the seven counts of rape and 10 years for each count of robbery with aggravating circumstances. He will effectively spend 30 years in prison after the judge ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

The judge also declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

The acting Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State, Advocate Navilla Somaru has commended the good work done by the investigating officer, sergeant Eric Kobeli and the prosecutor, Advocate Johan De Nysschen in ensuring that the accused is removed from society for a long time.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

Enquiries: pshuping@npa.gov.za

083 699 5900