

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: HENNINGMAN RAPIST SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS

A 21 year-old man from Phomolong Township in Henningman was yesterday sentenced to 10 years imprisonment after he was convicted of raping a 33 year-old woman by the Virginia Regional Court. Magistrate Tiloshni Ramdeyal sentenced Teboho Malebo for a rape incident that took place on March 5, 2018.

On the day of the incident, the complainant was walking from her relatives' place to her place of residence at around midnight when she came across the accused who first demanded the complainant to give him her cellular phone.

The complainant thought the accused would just take her cellular phone and leave her alone but he raped her after she had given him her cellular phone. She saw the face of the accused and she realised it was somebody from the same township.

She reported the incident to her husband when she got home. The matter was reported to the police and the accused was arrested. The accused applied for bail which was denied after it was successfully opposed by State Prosecutor, Advocate Ramontseng Lekhetho and the matter was transferred to the regional court.

The complainant passed away two days before the start of the trial and the defence wanted the state to withdraw the matter. Advocate Lekhetho refused to withdraw the matter and confronted the defence with the facts contained in the docket.

The accused had written a warning statement in which he admitted to robbing the complainant of her cellular phone and money but he was denying rape. He was also found in possession of the complainant's cellular phone when he was arrested.

“The accused wanted to use the passing away of the complainant as a get-away ticket but the recovery of her cellular phone from him and the warning statement he had already written were enough to prove his guilt”, said Lekhetho.

Lekhetho refused to withdraw the matter when he was requested to do so by the defence and informed the defence lawyer that he will request the court to postpone the matter for availability of DNA results as the tests were done before the passing away of the complainant.

The accused decided to plead guilty to rape and robbery. He was subsequently sentenced to 10 years for rape and three years for robbery. Magistrate Randeyal ordered the sentences to run concurrently and Malebo will effectively serve 10 years imprisonment.

Malebo was also declared unfit to own a firearm.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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