

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: 01 JUNE 2018

RE: JEALOUS BOYFRIEND SENTENCED

Yesterday, the Mthatha Regional Court sentenced Thozamile Gaula (31) to eight years imprisonment after he pleaded guilty on a charge of attempted murder emanating from a 2016 Christmas Day incident, which was widely circulated on Social Media.

In his plea statement, Gaula stated that he had consumed liquor when he quarrelled with his 28 year-old girlfriend over a picture of a male that he saw on the girlfriend's Facebook account. When he confronted his girlfriend with the picture, according to his statement, she denied being romantically involved with the man but that infuriated Gaula. In a fit rage, he assaulted her, plugged an iron and burnt her. As a result, the girlfriend lost a front tooth and sustained third degree burn wounds on her hands, face, stomach, thighs and private parts. When the family of the victim went to search for her at Gaula's home on the following day, he hid her in the linen drawer under his bed's base. But a taxi driver who had accompanied the family forcefully removed the bed and found the victim. While out on bail, Gaula absconded for more than a year prompting the court to issue a Warrant of Arrest. He was rearrested earlier this year.

In aggravation of sentence, Regional Court Prosecutor, Noluthando Mqgibelo submitted a Victim Impact Statement, prepared by Court Preparation Officer, Nombulelo Panda. In the statement, the victim, a Fort Hare University Law student, stated that she still has nightmares and was not coping with her studies because of the incident. She added that she was embarrassed by the scars on her body.

Sentencing Gaula, who has a previous conviction of possession of drugs, Magistrate Sizakele Sihlahla agreed with the state's submission that violent crimes committed by jealous boyfriends against their girlfriends were prevalent in South Africa at large. "From now on, you will know that no one owns another person, even if the person once said she is yours during nicer times, she did not mean it literally....she is not your property but a human being," said Magistrate Sihlahla, stating that the fact that Gaula pleaded guilty was an indication of remorse which counted in his favour.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded men.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

Enquiries: ltvali@npa.gov.za

047 502 2630