

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 26 MARCH 2019**

**RE: KILLER RAPIST SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE TERMS**

A 27 year-old man from Zamdela Township in Sasolburg was last week sentenced to two life sentences after he was convicted of rape and murder by the Free State High Court sitting in Sasolburg. Judge AB Mathebula sentenced Patrick Mpinga for rape and murder of Malehloa Nyofane. The incident happened on 20 August 2017.

According to evidence presented before court, the accused and the complainant were sitting together at a tavern drinking alcohol. They left the tavern together. The accused assaulted the complainant and forced her to an open field where he raped and murdered her. He left her lifeless body in the open field. The complainant's body was discovered in the morning by passers-by.

Mpinga was linked to the crime by witnesses who saw him leaving the tavern with the deceased. The DNA results also linked him to the crime. In his defence, Mpinga said he had a consensual intercourse with the complainant and denied killing her. The State Prosecutor, Advocate Moipone Moroka called witnesses to challenge the version of the accused. The court rejected his version and found him guilty of rape and murder.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Moroka requested the court to sentence Mpinga to life imprisonment because he killed the deceased in a most brutal, cold blooded and callous manner. "The deceased was under the influence of alcohol and it is the state's submission that she could have not offered any resistance and she was a soft target to the accused. He left her half-naked in an open field which shows that he has no respect whatsoever for people's live and bodies. The only appropriate sentence the court could impose on the accused is life imprisonment", said advocate Moroka.

Judge Mathebula concurred with the prosecutor that the only sentence that will fit the crime is life imprisonment. He subsequently sentence Mpinga to life imprisonment for rape and another life for murder. The sentences will run concurrently.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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