

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

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

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 02 MARCH 2017**

**RE: RAPIST GETS FOUR LIFE SENTENCES**

The Gariep Circuit Court in Upington has sentenced a 21 year-old man to four life sentences after he was convicted of five counts of rape and four counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances. On Friday, 24 February 2017, acting Judge Sharon Erasmus sentenced Andre van Wyk to life imprisonment for each of the four counts of rape she had convicted him on and an additional 70 years imprisonment for the other count of rape and four counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances.

The court heard that in March 2015, Van Wyk met three matriculants (two girls and a boy) on a Saturday morning while they were coming from school after attending extra classes. He attacked and robbed them of their belongings before raping the two girls. He also forced the boy to commit a sexual offence with one of the girls.

Van Wyk continued with his crime spree when he attacked and raped a 16 year-old girl on 12 November 2015 at knife point. The victim was on her way to school to write the examination. He also robbed her of her belongings.

The victims managed to describe the accused to the police and he was arrested. They also pointed him out at an identification parade after his arrest. Van Wyk was also linked to the crimes by DNA.

In aggravation, the state prosecutor, Advocate Jaques Rosenberg led the evidence of the mother of the 16 year-old victim who explained to the court how the incident has affected her child. Rosenberg also handed the victim impact reports for all the victims. These reports painted a gruesome picture of how the incidents impacted the lives of the victims. The reports stated that two of the victims tried to commit suicide as a result of what happened to them.

Rosenberg argued that the seriousness of the offences and the harm he caused to the victims outweighs the personal circumstances of the accused.

"The accused is a real danger to the society and he would have continued with his evil actions if he was not arrested. The court has a duty to protect innocent members of society from him and the only way to do that is to remove him from society by imposing a minimum sentence as prescribed by the law," said Rosenberg.

Judge Erasmus agreed with Rosenberg's submission and accordingly imposed the minimum prescribed sentences.

The acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Abram Botha has commended the good work done by the investigating officer and the prosecutor in ensuring that the accused is removed from society.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

**Enquiries:** [pshuping@npa.gov.za](mailto:pshuping@npa.gov.za)

**083 699 5900**