

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 23 MAY 2017**

**RE: RAPIST GETS TWO LIFE SENTENCES PLUS 27 YEARS**

The Free State High Court sitting in Bethlehem had on Friday sentenced a 28 year-old man from Mashaeng in Fouriesburg to two life sentences plus 27 years after he was convicted of two counts of rape, housebreaking with intent to rape and rape, robbery with aggravating circumstances, two counts of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and two counts of kidnapping.

Acting judge Gela sentenced Kgauta Daniel Tshabalala to two life sentences for the two counts of rape, 10 years for housebreaking with intent to rape and rape, three years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, two years for each count of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and five years for each count of kidnapping.

The court heard that the first incident happened on 23 April 2011 when Tshabalala, armed with a knife, broke into the house of a complainant and raped her. He also robbed her of her cellular phone.

In the second incident that happened on 14 September 2014, the complainant together with her two friends was on her way to her boyfriend when they met the accused who wanted to talk to her. The complainant did not want to talk to him and the accused assaulted her with open hands. Her friends fled the scene. The accused took out a knife and forced the complainant to a shack where he raped her. He also burned her with a cigarette.

On 7 November 2015, in the early hours of the morning, Tshabalala and his companion overpowered the complainant, threatened her with a knife and forced her to a shack in Dipelaneng Township where she was raped. DNA linked Tshabalala to all the rape incidents.

Arguing in aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Jannie Botha requested the court to impose a harsh sentence on the accused because he is a danger to society and society should be protected from people like him.

"It is possible that the accused had raped more women considering that the first raped occurred in 2011 and he was arrested in 2016. He preyed on defenceless women who were walking from the taverns. We urge the victims to report these incidents even if they cannot identify the perpetrators." said Botha.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State, Advocate Xolisile Khanyile has welcomed the sentence. "The public is outraged by this rampant scourge and the NPA is pleased that the court has imposed the harshest sentence possible. We hope the sentence will serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders," said Khanyile.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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