

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: 28 FEBRUARY 2018

RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS

A 32 year-old man from Makwane in Phuthaditjhaba was on Friday sentenced to 23 years effectively by the Free State High Court sitting in Bethlehem after he was convicted on five counts of rape. Judge Johan Daffue, sentenced Mahlomola Isaac Makau Mokoena for going on a rape spree that started in December 2014 until May 2016.

The court heard that Mokoena instilled fear in the small township of Makwane by raping his victims when they were walking to their homes from the taverns. He would threaten those that were accompanying his victims with a panga before forcing the victims to his house or a secluded area where he would rape them.

Mokoena's rape spree started in December 2014 when he raped his first victim who was on her way home from the tavern. The victim was accompanied by a friend when they met Mokoena who hit the victim with a bottle on the head. The victim's friend ran away to seek help and Mokoena forced the victim to accompany him and raped her twice.

In the second incident that took place on 25 March 2016, Mokoena who was in the company of two unknown male persons, requested the complainant to go with him to his house. The complainant refused but Mokoena forced her to accompany him and raped her when they arrived at his place.

He raped the third complainant on 21 May 2016 when she was walking home from the tavern in the company of a male friend. He threatened the victim's male friend with a panga and forced the complainant to his place where he raped her.

Mokoeana committed his last crime on 29 May 2016 when he raped the complainant after forcefully taking her away from a male friend who was accompanying her. He again

threatened the complainant's male friend with a panga before forcing the complainant to accompany him to his place.

Mokoena was linked through DNA to only one incident and he claims that the complainant was his girlfriend. He denied raping other victims. However, the complainants' statements were corroborated by eye witnesses who informed the court of how the complainants were taken away.

Representing the state, Advocate Rudolph Hoffman described Mokoena as someone who does not have respect for the law because he instilled fear in the community of Makwane as some of the victims were afraid to report the incidents and some moved out of Makwane just to be away from the accused.

"The accused terrorised the community of Makwane to an extent that he would threaten the families of the complainants once he heard that they have reported the incidents to the police. He even threatened some of the complainants while he was incarcerated. The only way to keep the community safe is to send him to prison for a long time", said Hoffman.

Judge Daffue concurred with the state prosecutor and found the accused guilty on five counts of rape. Daffue took count one and two together for the purpose of sentencing and sentenced Mokoena to 15 years in prison. He sentenced him to 10 years for the third count, 20 years for the fourth count and another 10 years for the fifth count. Mokoena will effectively spend 23 years in prison after the judge ordered some of the sentences to run concurrently.

The NPA welcomes the conviction and the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

083 699 5900

pshuping@npa.gov.za