

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

The Mankweng Regional Court sentenced Zacharia Letsoalo (25) from Mentz, Ga-Shiloane to life imprisonment last week.

The court heard during trial that on 17 November 2012 in the evening, the accused and his now deceased accomplice attacked the complainant who was in the company of an adult male friend. The two accused assaulted the male friend before assaulting the complainant with a hard object on her face and dragging her to an old building where she was raped by the two men. Letsoalo raped her twice and the other man raped her once. They then left her at the scene.

She arrived at her homestead bleeding and reported the incident to her sister and the police were summoned. The following morning Letsoalo, accompanied by his father came to the family of the complainant and apologised and both men were later arrested.

They pleaded not guilty and the court found them guilty as charged. The accused two, Marothi Seabela passed on during trial.

In aggravation of sentence, state prosecutor Mokgomo Masehela, handed the victim impact report which confirmed that the complainant would require future psychological support to help her cope with the ordeal. Masehela also handed a report by the probation officer who emphasised that the life imprisonment suits the offence. He further argued that the aggravating circumstances were present because accused inflicted physical injuries on the complainant and raped her more than once. He said the accused deserved to be given life sentence.

The court subsequently convicted him of rape and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Ivy Thenga commended the good work of prosecutor Masehela.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi- Dzhangi

DPP- Limpopo

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