

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2020**

**RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

A 32 year-old man from F Section in Botshabelo was today sentenced to an effective life imprisonment after he was convicted on two counts of housebreaking with an intent to rape and rape and one count of rape by the Free State High Court. Judge Corne van Zyl sentenced Ntjapedi Jonas Mpatsi to 15 years for each of the two counts of housebreaking with an intent to rape and rape and life imprisonment for rape. The judge, however, ordered the sentences to run concurrently, making Mpatsi's sentence life imprisonment.

Mpatsi's first brush with the law was when he broke into the house of a 70 year-old woman in Batho Location on the night of 09 August 2012. The complainant was awoken by the barking dog. She was attacked by the accused, who had gained entry into the house by breaking open the front door. He was armed with a spade. He threatened to kill the complainant before raping her.

On 23 December 2013, Mpatsi raped his second victim, a 17 year-old girl. The complainant was on a way to her boyfriend when she was accosted by Mpatsi. He threatened her with an axe, assaulted her severely and raped her.

During the night of 29 September 2018, Mpatsi broke into the house of a 44 year-old woman who was sleeping with her child. He forced the door open and raped the complainant. The complainant knew the accused. She reported the matter to the police and the accused was linked to the other cases by DNA.

In aggravation of sentence, state prosecutor, Advocate Melanie van Rooyen presented a Victim Impact Statement (VIS) facilitated by Martha Motshabeng. In the VIS, the daughter of the 44 year-old complainant stated that the incident had affected her mother

emotionally and she struggles to sleep at night because she sometimes wake up at night claiming that she heard voices outside.

Advocate van Rooyen requested the court to impose severe sentences on the accused to protect women. "The victim in count one is a 70 year-old woman who was violated in the comfort of her own house where she was expecting to be safe. She was raped on her own bed by an accused who is young enough to be her grandchild. The 17 year-old complainant was severely assaulted before she was raped. She even dropped out of school after the incident. The accused was well-known to the family of the 44 year-old complainant. He frequently visited the family and they trusted him. The court has a duty to protect women from the accused because he would have continued violating women if he was not arrested", said van Rooyen.

Judge Van Zyl sentenced Mpatsi to an effective life imprisonment and ordered that his name should be included in the National Register for Sex Offenders.

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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