

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

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RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO 50 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

A 27-year old man from Honeyville Section in Makwane, Phuthaditjhaba was on Wednesday sentenced to 50 years imprisonment after he was convicted of 15 counts that included rape, robbery and kidnapping by the Phuthaditjhaba Magistrate's Court.

Magistrate Patrick Msimanga sentenced Kadi David Lephuthing to an effective 50 years after he convicted him of five counts of rape, four counts of robbery, four counts of kidnapping, one count of assault and one count of extortion. Lephuthing committed the offences between February 2014 and April 2017. The victims were aged between 14 and 21 years.

Lephuthing committed the first offence on February 23, 2014 when he met a 14-year old complainant at Setsing Shopping Centre. He dragged the complainant into a taxi and took her to his home where he raped her. He continued with his crime spree when he met a 16-year old girl at the same shopping centre and forced her to accompany him to his house. He raped the complainant and robbed her of her money.

He raped three other women using the same modus operandi. Lephuthing was known to taxi drivers as he worked at the taxi rank as a queue marshal. It transpired during the trial that when by-standers and taxi passengers tried to intervene, he would tell them that the complainants were his girlfriends and warn them not to interfere in his affairs.

He pleaded not guilty to all the counts claiming that he was in romantic relationships with all the complainants. However, State Prosecutor, Tebogo Maponya, dismissed his argument stating that it is impossible that all the complainants could gang up against the accused, as they did not know each other.

“The complainants come from different areas and they do not know each other. There is no way that they could be making up the claims against the accused. One of the complainants was under age and the other complainant was assaulted before she was raped. His version of what happened cannot be true. He just wants to save himself”, said Maponya.

Magistrate Msimanga concurred with the prosecutor and sentenced Lephuthing to a total of 72 years. He however, ordered some of the sentences to run concurrently making his sentence an effective 50 years. The magistrate also ordered that his name should be included in the National Register for Sex Offenders.

The acting Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State, Advocate Navilla Somaru has commended the good done by the investigating officer, Warrant Officer Thabiso Moholo and the prosecutor in ensuring that the accused pay for his crimes.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

Enquiries: pshuping@npa.gov.za

083 699 5900