

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 15 MAY 2018**

**RE: SERIAL RAPIST IMPRISONED FOR LIFE**

The Winnie Mandela informal settlement (Tembisa) rapist was sentenced to 25 life imprisonment terms plus 254 years imprisonment by the high court sitting in Johannesburg

Twenty five year-old Shadrack Xidada Chauke was convicted of 60 counts inclusive of 23 rapes, 2 of attempted rape and 7 housebreaking with intent to rob. Wielding a knife or screwdriver, he would accost women on their way to work or those walking with their partners. He would hit their male companions with a brick so that they lose consciousness. Chauke would then take the women to the nearby bushes and rape them. Some of the victims were attacked in their homes where he would make forced entries, rob the complainants of their belongings and thereafter proceed to rape them.

The accused was arrested after police positively traced the location of one of the victim's phones. The man in position of the phone admitted to buying the phone from Chauke and later took the police to Chauke. After his arrest, DNA extracted from the victim that owned the phone positively matched that of the accused and police were able to link him to several other dockets. His arrest came as a relief to women who were living under terror of being attacked and raped.

These crimes were dehumanising in that some of the victims were compelled to watch each other's rape as Chauke would sometimes take turns on more than one woman, in full view of the other. The state views these crimes extremely serious and is motivated by the type of sentences dispensed by the courts in such matters.

Junior State Advocate, Nerisha Naidoo argued in aggravation for a harsh sentence that these victims were subjected to horrendous ordeals. She urged the court to consider the fact that some of these women were raped without a condom, thus subjecting them to the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and HIV.

The state asked the court not to deviate from imposing the prescribed sentence of life imprisonment as it was convinced that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances present, justifying such departure.

Director of Public Prosecutions in the Gauteng Local Division, Adv. Andrew Chauke commends the collective efforts of the investigating officer and the prosecutor for securing a sentence that is proportionate to the seriousness of the crimes perpetrated by Shadrack Chauke.

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Mjonondwane**

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