

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 15 FEBRUARY 2018**

**RE: SERIAL RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE PLUS 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT**

The Limpopo High Court sentenced Pheneus Makgobathe (35) of Ga Matsea-Mankweng to life imprisonment plus 20 years following his convictions on six counts of rape.

The accused accosted his targets mostly women from Malahlela village, Ga-Kama, Mentz and Segopye while walking alone in the fields.

He pleaded guilty to the charges. In mitigation he testified that he was suffering from depression after losing his two girlfriends who died some time ago. He said his offences were committed as a way to relieve stress.

The State Prosecutor, Advocate Eric Mabapa, submitted to the court that the accused was not remorseful but merely pleaded guilty because the DNA was conclusive proof. He argued further that his conduct was barbaric and that he was not a good candidate for rehabilitation since his previous sentence for the same offence did not serve to rehabilitate him. Advocate Mabapa emphasized that it was more aggravating that during the commission of these offences the accused had just been released on parole in July 2015. He reminded the court that the accused's callousness that in one of the counts the victim was raped in full view of her 9 year-old child. Advocate Mabapa also submitted that the offences were all committed within a period of less than five months.

The court concurred with the state and remarked that the accused must be removed from the society as a measure of protecting innocent women. The court said, previous sentence of 16 years imprisonment did not deter him from committing further crimes and as such he was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 20 years on each of the other five counts of rape.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the Director of Public Prosecutions Advocate Ivy Thenga had this to say, "women and children are not safe in their communities therefore the sentence would go a long way in sending a loud message that violence against women and children will not be tolerated".

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang**  
**Regional Spokesperson- Limpopo**  
**074 823 3603**  
[mmalabi@npa.gov.za](mailto:mmalabi@npa.gov.za)