

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 30 MAY 2017**

**RE: SIX MEN SENTENCED FOR RAPE AND ROBBERY**

The Bloemfontein Sexual Offences Court had yesterday sentenced three men to life imprisonment each after they were found guilty of rape and robbery with aggravating circumstances. Magistrate Lehlohonolo Moeng sentenced Godfrey De Wee, Thabo Mothibeli and Thabo Mojafa to life imprisonment each for rape and 10 years each for robbery with aggravating circumstances. The other three accused, Thabang Jantjies, Patrick Kawe and Sabata May were each sentenced to 10 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances.

The court heard that the 27 year- old complainant was walking with her boyfriend and a friend from a funeral to their homes in Heidedal when they were accosted by six men. The accused chased the three down the street and De Wee, Mothibeli and Mojafa caught up with the complainant, dragged her to a nearby open veld and raped her.

Jantjies, Kawe and May ran after the complainant's boyfriend and his friend. They caught up with the complainant's boyfriend, assaulted him with an unknown object and robbed him of his cap, running shoes and some cash. The complainant's boyfriend ran to the nearest house after he was assaulted to look for help. The complainant was found walking in the streets naked and injured. The matter was reported to the police and all the six men were arrested a few days later.

De Wee, Mothibeli and Mojafa were charged for rape and robbery with aggravating circumstance. DNA linked them to the rape of the complainant. Jantjies, Kawe and May were only charged for robbery with aggravating circumstances as they were not involved in the rape of the complainant.

State Prosecutor, Ralie Eksteen presented the victim impact statement compiled by the court preparation officer, Martha Motshabeng which detailed how the incident had traumatised the complainant.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State, Advocate Xolisile Khanyile has commended the good work that was done by the investigating officer, Saki Dikgetsi and the prosecutor in ensuring that the accused get hefty sentences.

"We hope that these sentences will send a clear message that violence perpetrated against women will not be tolerated and the NPA will ensure that those who perpetrate violence against women face the full might of the law", said Khanyile.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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