

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 20 AUGUST 2020**

**RE: THREE LIFE TERMS FOR RAPIST**

The Polokwane High Court sentenced Tlou Nelson Mpebe (30) of Ga Matlala to three life imprisonment terms. This is after he was convicted of three counts of rape and five years for house breaking with intent to rape.

The first incident happened on 22 January 2012, when the victim, who was 15 years at the time, was walking from a relative's home at around 18h30, met Mpebe on the side of the road while she was hitchhiking. He threatened to stab her with a knife, dragged her to a bush and raped her. When he was done, he gave her his mobile phone to call her mother, who arrived later and took her home, unbeknown to her that her daughter had been raped. She later related the incident to her mother.

The second incident happened when a 14 year-old victim was coming from school during the day, the accused approached her and again threaten her with a knife before raping her in a bush. The third victim was raped at night. She was asleep at home when the accused opened the window, entered her bedroom and forcefully raped her. He escaped through the window.

DNA evidence linked the accused to the offences. The accused was arrested in 2017 when the third victim saw him again while walking, and told another person that the accused had raped her.

During the trial, the accused changed his plea to guilty as the evidence was overwhelming. In mitigation of sentence, the accused told the court that he is remorseful and apologised for his wrongdoing. He further called his elder brother who is a pastor, who testified that his younger brother is possessed.

In aggravation of sentence, three witnesses were called to testify about their ordeals. One of them told the court that she does not feel safe when she is left at home alone and she does not trust men. She further said that, she even failed her grade at school and the ordeal still haunts her. All complainants stated that they are not ready to forgive the accused as he has violated them.

State Advocate Ronald Sithada, argued that the accused is not remorseful, instead, he is regretting due to the overwhelming evidence which linked him to the offences and there are no compelling and substantial circumstances to deviate from imposing the prescribed sentences.

The court found the evidence of the state witnesses to be credible and the evidence of the accused to be unreliable. The court agreed with the state and sentenced the accused to three life imprisonment terms plus five years for housebreaking with intent to rape.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the DPP Limpopo, Advocate Ivy Thenga, commends Advocate Ronald Sithada and the investigating team for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that justice is served.

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo**

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