



the premier

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FREE STATE PROVINCE

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Free State Premier Ace Magashule has welcomed the sentencing of a man convicted of multiple counts of rape and robbery.

Thirty four-year-old Tiisetso Ephraim Spandeel Matabane was slapped with five life sentences and 45 years in jail by the Bloemfontein High Court this week.

Matabane was charged with 16 counts of rape and housebreaking with intent to commit rape and robbery. Justice Joseph Mhlambi found Matabane guilty on eight charges of rape, three charges of theft and two charges of housebreaking.

The court heard how Matabane raped, maimed and stole from his victims from 2005 until his arrest in 2011. Matabane targeted women in and around Bloemfontein, Freedom Square and Botshabelo.

Matabane will spend the rest of his life in prison after Justice Mhlambi ordered the five life sentences to run concurrently.

Welcoming the stiff sentences, Magashule said he hoped they would deter other criminals and serve as consolation to the victims' families.

Magashule praised the police work which led to the successful prosecution of Matabane. "We call on the community to continue working with the police to root out criminals from our society. Members of the community must always report acts of criminality instead of harboring criminals in our homes," Premier Magashule said.

MEC of Police, Roads and Transport Butana Komphela also welcomed the sentences and congratulated the police, the prosecutor and the witnesses for their role in putting the Matabane behind bars.

"This sends a strong message to all would be rapists. We welcome the sentence as it shows that women's rights are human rights. People who rape our women must know that they will not get away with committing such heinous crimes," Komphela said

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