

LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPIST



From left: sergeant Christopher Maimela and captain Kaizer Papola investigated the case.

Rustenburg – A 48-year old man is likely to spend the rest of his life behind bars after he was handed a heavy sentence by the Bafokeng Magistrates' Court on Monday 27 May for charges related to rape, assault and kidnapping.

Mabuti Cigarettes Buqa, who was found guilty on two counts of rape, two counts of kidnapping and four counts of assault with the intention to cause grievous bodily harm (GBH), committed these crimes against his former girlfriend in Lefaragatla, near Rustenburg.

According to police dockets, Mabuti was first arrested in 2014 after the 25-year old woman had opened a case of rape and assault against him.

"The case against Mabuti was withdrawn when the woman failed to attend the court proceedings. At that time, the police were not aware that the accused had threatened the victim and her family and warned them against attending court," police spokesperson sergeant Ofenste Mokgadi said.

On Tuesday 14 August 2018, Mabuti brutally assaulted and raped the woman, before kidnapping her and taking her to an industrial site next to a mine.

He then dug a pit and buried her alive inside the hole using rocks, leaving only her head exposed above the surface.

A follow-up on a kidnapping report by sergeant Christopher Maimela and captain Kaizer Papola of the Family Violence Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS) in Rustenburg, led to Mabuti's arrest.

"She was still buried inside the grave when we arrived there with the suspect. She was barely alive," Ofenste added.

For the first count of rape, Mabuti was handed a life sentence while he was handed a further 10-year jail term for the other rape incident which occurred in 2018.

Additional sentences for charges related to assault and kidnapping means Mabuti will spend a very long time in jail.

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