No justice for man falsely accused of rape

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A SEXUAL encounter with a woman he had just met at a tavern ended badly for an Ekurhuleni man when some of the residents accused him of rape and assaulted him.

Despite his pleas for them to believe he was innocent, Sizwe Mlaba, 32, of Katlehong, said the raging mob wouldn’t listen and continued to beat him.

His body is scarred, one of his teeth is chipped and he has a slight speech impediment.

What hurts Mlaba more than the injuries he suffered is the fact that the woman who cried rape and his assailants are free to walk the streets while his name has been tainted and he is regarded as a rapist in the neighbourhood.

“I want these people to be arrested because I was wrongly accused and assaulted, and can't even speak properly because of that,” he said.

“Today, when I try to speak to ladies they say ‘That is why you were beaten up’. I am also known as the person who drags ladies to his house."

Mlaba had visited a tavern in his neighbourhood in July. There he met the woman, who was with two other people.

He said he knew the three only by sight because they lived in the neighbourhood. When it was time for him to leave, the woman followed him.

“I asked her what she wanted but she did not say anything. I grabbed her hand and asked her ‘do you want me to sleep with you?’ and she just laughed.

“We walked home together, and when I got there she undressed and I took my clothes off. We had sex using a condom for the first and second rounds. When I tried to put on a condom for the third round, she put on her clothes and ran out of the house.”

Mlaba said he got dressed and tried to find out why the woman suddenly left when he encountered the mob, who accused him of having raped her. They beat him to a pulp.

He laid an assault charge against the woman and one of the men who was part of the mob. They were arrested.

Police spokesperson Mega Ndobe said the woman, 53, never laid a case of rape against Mlaba.
Instead, she told the police that she had screamed rape because she and Mlaba had agreed that he would pay her for sex but had not.

“The community was misled,” Ndobe said.

When the police went to investigate, some of the residents said the woman was a problem and that she harassed men, especially when she was drunk.

“We did not arrest her and charge her with perjury because she had not opened a case of rape,” Ndobe said.

The case against the woman and another man accused of assaulting Mlaba was withdrawn in the Palm Ridge Magistrate’s Court.

Ndobe said that was because Mlaba had said in his statement he was beaten by a mob, but charges were brought against only two people.

He said the case would continue once more people had been arrested.

By Botho Molosankwe – botho.molosankwe@inl.co.za

https://www.security.co.za/news/33450
MY NUDE SHAME

‘One night stand sugar mama cried rape’

By LEHLOHONOLO MBATHA

SIZWE Mlaba says a one night stand with an older woman ruined his life.

The 32-year-old from Katlehong in Ekurhuleni told Daily Sun he was enjoying drinks at a local tavern last month when he was approached by a 49-year-old woman.

“I could see she was interested in me and she was making moves towards me the whole night, which I didn’t mind.

“When I went home, she insisted on coming with me,” said Sizwe.

“When we got to my room, we began to have sex. We had two rounds but during the third round, she suddenly ran naked into the street and started shouting that I was raping her.”

Residents heard the woman screaming and ran to the scene.

Before he knew what was going on, Sizwe was being beaten with steel pipes and sjamboks.

He was then forced on a naked walk of shame through the streets.

He was rescued by his neighbours, who had seen him enter his yard with the woman.

He went to the police station and opened cases against the woman and the people who had attacked him.

When the police questioned the woman, she allegedly admitted she had been lying.

The police also found condoms in Sizwe’s room, which proved she had given him permission to have sex with her.

“This woman ruined my life and my reputation. ‘I can’t even walk in the street in peace any more because everyone thinks I’m a rapist,” said Sizwe.

Katlehong spokesman Captain Mega Ndebe confirmed the incident and said a case of assault was opened against four residents and the woman. They are due to appear in court soon.

Sizwe Mlaba says his good reputation took a knock.

Photo by Sifiso Jimla