

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: CITY PHOTOGRAPHER SENTENCED

Rudolph Coetzee (23) was sentenced to an effective 24 years of imprisonment in the Northern Cape High Court by Judge President Frans Kgomo after he pleaded guilty to five counts of rape, two counts of attempted rape, 16 counts of sexual assault and 22 counts of creating child pornography. These offences were committed between May 2010 and April 2014 and were committed against children between the ages of three and 12 years and mainly boys.

According to a report by a clinical psychologist Major Hayden Knibbs, Coetzee fits the profile of a paedophile.

Coetzee owned a photography studio, which he used to lure some of his victims. He took pictures of naked children engaging in acts of a sexual nature.

Handing down the sentence, the court said that Coetzee literally destroyed the lives of the children, all of which suffer ongoing emotional trauma. One of the victims was said to display suicidal tendencies whereas others had turned to drugs and alcohol. The court ordered that Coetzee's name be recorded in the register of sexual offenders.

Advocate Ronewa Makhaga said, "Though the state requested life imprisonment, I'm still satisfied with the sentence imposed".

There may still be similar undetected or unreported cases, but today South Africa and its children is safer without him".

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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