

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 01 SEPTEMBER 2017

RE: BOGUS MEDICAL DOCTOR SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

James Mogwasa Mathopa was convicted and sentenced by the Mahikeng High Court sitting in Mogwase on 4 523 counts of fraud. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

The 47 year-old practised as a medical doctor in Tlhabane and Maabeskraal. He examined, diagnosed and treated more than 948 patients over a period of six years. He had no medical qualifications and was previously employed as a driver and general assistant in a hardware store.

He was previously convicted in Viljoenskroon in 2010 on three counts of fraud and one of contravening Section 22A of the Medicine and Related Substances Control Act 101 of 1965. He was sentenced to a period of one year under house arrest. He committed these crimes immediately after his conviction in 2010 when he moved away from Viljoenskroon to Tlhabane and Maabeskraal respectively.

The state represented by Advocate Jeanette Neveling, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit in North West Province urged the court to send a strong message to deter other wannabe criminals. She argued that the accused had a total disregard for human lives; he practiced as Doctor for financial gain and greed.

When Judge Ronald Hendricks sentenced him, he stated that the medical profession is regulated by the Health Professions Council of South Africa to protect citizens against medical malpractice. He further stated that the sentence imposed in 2010 did not deter the accused but on the contrary, one month later he moved to the North West province and started "practising" in Rustenburg.

The Mahikeng High Court sentenced the accused to 20 years imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Johan Smit SC applauded the exceptional work done by Advocate Jeanette Neveling and welcomed the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Frank Lesenyego

Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West

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