

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: FORMER EMPD OFFICER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR PREYING ON YOUNG GIRLS

A former Senior Superintendent of the Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department (EMPD), Adam Cummings (59) and his co-accused, Tebogo Maregele (25) were sentenced to a collective 186 years imprisonment by the High Court of South Africa Gauteng Local Division, Johannesburg.

Cummings was convicted of two counts of rape, statutory rape and trafficking in persons for sexual purposes and was sentenced to an effective life imprisonment, whilst Maregele was sentenced to an effective 20 years imprisonment for being an accomplice to rape, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons for sexual purposes. The court further ordered that both accused's particulars be included in the national register for sex offenders.

Cummings met Maregele when she was eight years of age through his child, whom she had befriended. He took advantage of the fact that she came from a poor background and would give her money and buy her food whilst grooming her sexually. He further introduced her to drugs and alcohol. At a later stage, Cummings used her to recruit young girls from her neighborhood for sexual exploitation, using the same modus operandi he used on Maregele. The victims were aged nine and 16 at the time. Maregele would take them to a secluded area to meet with Cummings, who would rape them after wielding his official firearm and thereafter give them money and food.

During aggravation for sentence, Senior State Advocate, Nonkululeko Serepo presented psycho-social report compiled by probation officers, Xoliswa Budaza and Thato Modise, detailing the impact the crimes had on the victims, wherein one of the victims detailed how she finds it difficult to trust both females and males as she felt betrayed and violated by both sexes. In the interview with the probation officer, the nine-year-old

victim told Budaza that she wished that Cummings could be permanently removed from society so that young girls could be safe. Serepo pleaded with the court to grant the victim her wish, arguing that Cummings was a high ranking officer, entrusted with a firearm to protect society but did the opposite.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

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