

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 08 APRIL 2019**

**RE: FORMER COURT INTERPRETER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR RAPE**

A former court interpreter was on Friday sentenced to 10 years for raping his ex-girlfriend by the Bloemfontein Sexual Offences Court. Magistrate Jan Greyvensteyn sentenced Motsamai Moses Solo (30) for an offence that was committed on 28 August 2013 in Petrusburg. The complainant was 16 years old at the time of the incident.

Solo, who first appeared in the Koffiefontein Magistrate's Court on 22 January 2014, brought several applications that delayed the finalisation of the matter. He was initially represented by a private lawyer who later withdrew as attorney on record. His application for legal aid assistance was dismissed as he was employed by the Department of Justice as an interpreter in Bloemfontein.

The matter was remanded for several appearances for Solo, who is also a former teacher, to get a new lawyer. He eventually decided to represent himself after he decided not to appeal the decision of the legal aid not to represent him. The state closed its case in December 2016. Immediately after the closing of the state's case, Solo applied for the recusal of the magistrate accusing him of prejudicing against him. The application was dismissed.

He then brought an application for the complainant to be recalled. The court allowed it. During the recalling of the complainant, it emerged that the statement of the complainant that was provisionally handed in as exhibit C, was not on the charge sheet. Solo accused the prosecutor of removing the statement in an effort to negatively influence the case.

During the calling back of the complainant for further cross-examination, the complainant testified that Solo wanted her to withdraw the case against him in exchange for R10 000. Solo's cousin was the one who approached the complainant on behalf of the accused.

The accused applied for discharge in terms of Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Act after the state had closed its case for a second time. The application was dismissed. The accused then again brought another application for the magistrate to recuse himself stating that the court is prejudiced against him. This application was also refused.

The charge sheet was stolen after the refusal of the discharge in terms of Section 174. Clerk of the court opened a criminal case. Solo accused the magistrate of theft of the charge sheet. He also lodged a complaint against the prosecutor to the Chief Prosecutor.

In aggravation, State Prosecutor, Advocate Louis York, argued that the accused failed to convince the court of the existence of compelling and substantial circumstances and therefore, the court should impose the minimum prescribed sentence of 10 years.

“The accused failed to convince the court that compelling and substantial circumstances exist for imposition of a lesser sentence. He instead, tried to manipulate the criminal justice system by trying to bribe the complainant and delaying the finalisation of the matter by bringing several applications”, said Advocate York.

Magistrate Greyvesteyn, who stated that he never came across an arrogant accused as Solo, agreed with the prosecutor that there are no compelling and substantial circumstance to impose a lesser sentence. He subsequently sentenced the accused to 10 years imprisonment. He further declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

Kind Regards,

**Phaladi Shuping**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State**

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