Media Statement

NATIONAL PROSECUTING AUTHORITY
South Africa

TO: **ALL MEDIA**

DATE: **29 JULY 2019**

RE: **HEFTY JAIL TERM FOR MAMELODI PAEDOPHILE**

Pretoria Regional Court sentenced a 48 year-old man who sexually molested a 14 year-old girl in Mamelodi East to life imprisonment on 22 July 2019, after pleading guilty to the charge. Motswakape Mahlatsi was arrested a few days after the commission of the offence in February 2018 and was charged with 1 count of rape. He also has a previous conviction of rape.

In the morning of 19 February, the minor was walking to school and came across Mahlatsi who was a stranger to her.

He took out a knife and accosted her to the bushes where she was raped at knifepoint and left at the scene. The young girl dressed up and went back home to report the incident to her aunt. The aunt took her to Mamelodi Police Station and then later to Mamelodi Thuthuzala Care Centre for examination.

Although the accused pleaded guilty due to positive DNA test, State prosecutor, Thulisile Shabalala submitted to the court that the state does not accept the plea because the accused is trying to run away from the prescribed minimum sentence, which is life. Shabalala asked the court to postpone the proceedings for the state to prepare a victim impact report.

The prosecution presented the statement to the court, which highlighted the negative impact of the minor who is currently facing social stigma and discrimination. She believes she had lost self-respect, physical and mental integrity from the community.

The court ruled that the plea was not compelling to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence. It further held that the fact that the accused had a previous conviction, there are no prospects of a successful rehabilitation therefore, he must be removed from the society.

Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

Kind Regards,

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