

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 29 JANUARY 2020

RE: HEFTY SENTENCES FOR TSHEPISONG REIGN OF TERROR

Nine men were each sentenced to life imprisonment term by the Johannesburg High Court today, Wednesday, 29 January 2020 for a spate of offences committed between November 2015 and August 2016.

Thomas Tivane, Makamu Mappedje, Alex Mabuya, Boavida Chilengue, Gito Maguele, Jordan Bila, Antonio Timbe, George Mabunda and Jeremias Sithole were convicted of 53 counts ranging from the contravention of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) 121 of 1998, gang rapes, kidnappings, one count of murder, inciting and/or abetting another to commit the crime of rape, etc.

The accused terrorised residents of Tshepisoong (Mogale City Municipality) by wielding pangas, knives, knobkerries and what resembled firearms to kidnap, rob and rape unsuspecting women. These heinous crimes resulted in the loss of Mathapelo Baloyi's life who later succumbed to injuries after being raped and stoned by 3 of the assailants.

All accused were arrested after investigating officer Captain Vuma, acted on information from an informer. They were later pointed out by complainants at an identification parade and were further linked to these offences through DNA samples.

Senior State Advocate Lwazi Ngodwana led evidence of 13 complainants, officers that participated during the identification parade, officers that gave testimony about the chain of evidence on how samples were handled from collection to the laboratory as well as that of medical experts that examined the complainants.

Adv Ngodwana led the evidence of the deceased's husband, Joseph Baloyi, who testified in aggravation of sentence, detailing the impact the crime and her death had on him and the entire family. He also argued that the sentence imposed by the court should be

proportionate to the seriousness of the offences committed and asked the court not to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence of life imprisonment, as substantial and compelling circumstances were non-existent in this matter.

The court found that all accused lacked mercy during the commission of these offences and had shown no remorse for the pain and suffering they inflicted on the victims, thereby resulting in their removal from society for a lengthy period.

The NPA is satisfied with the sentence.

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