

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO : ALL MEDIA

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RE : JAIL OR FINE FOR DOOM PASTOR

The Mookgopong Magistrate Court sentenced Pastor Lethebo Rabalago (25) also known as the "Prophet of Doom" yesterday after he was found guilty on five charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and two counts of contravening the Stock and Agricultural Remedies Act 36 of 1947, which deals with pest control operators. Pastor Rabalago led the Mount Zion General Assembly church in Zebediela – Limpopo.

The court heard that the accused used the household insecticides as one of his healing rituals. The insecticide, preferably doom was sprayed on his congregants to treat various ailments.

In aggravation of sentence State Prosecutor, Chris Maruma submitted that the accused has a previous convictions of contravening National Road Traffic Act. He further submitted to court that the accused must not be treated as a fallen angel but like any other human being. It is more aggravating for the accused person to use doom insecticide which is harmful to people, he said. He further stressed that the community must be protected from quirky methods of the modern clergy who prescribed dangerous and harmful items to the vulnerable, sick and needy.

He was sentenced on counts 1, 2, 3 (taken together for the purpose of sentence) to R6000. 00 fine or two years imprisonment and count 4, 5, 6 and 8 also (taken together for the purpose of sentence) to R30000-00 fine or three years imprisonment half of which is suspended for a period of three years on condition that the accused is not convicted of a similar charge during the period of suspension.

The defence attorney brought an application for deferment of fine in terms of Section 297 (6) (a) of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, for the accused to pay R3000. 00 monthly instalment until the fine is fully paid. The court granted the deferment order.

The NPA welcomes the decision of the court and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Ivy Thenga remarked that the sentence will go a long way in reminding the would-be offenders and that the courts will not sit idle in the face of human rights violation and criminality perpetrated under the cover of the religious cloth.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhangi
Regional Spokesperson- Limpopo
074 823 3603
mmalabi@npa.gov.za