

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 30 OCTOBER 2018

RE: LIFE BEHIND BARS FOR CHILD RAPIST

A 26-year old man from Petsana Township in Reitz was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a 9-year old girl by the Bethlehem Regional Court. Magistrate Hein van Niekerk sentenced Joseph Tebalo Monareng after convicting him for an incident that took place on 13 November 2015 in Reitz.

The court heard that the accused met the complainant who was walking alone in the street and forced her to a nearby toilet where he raped her. The grandmother noticed, when the complainant got home, that there is something wrong with her and took her to the police. The police referred her to the clinic where it was confirmed that she was raped.

The accused was arrested on 18 November 2015 after the complainant identified him at an identity parade but the charge against him was withdrawn whilst the court was waiting for the DNA results. The charges were reinstated after the results of the DNA linked the accused to the offence.

Monareng, conducting his own defence, denied being involved in the rape of the complainant. He told the court that his semen got to the underwear of the complainant as he used it, at the request of the grandmother, to clean himself.

State Prosecutor, Ntai Letaba requested the court to reject the version of the accused because he is making a story in order to justify the presence of his semen on the complainant's underwear.

"The accused is a remorseless and cruel man who targeted an innocent and defenceless girl. He saw her as an easy target and preyed on her. The manner in which the offence

was committed shows that it was planned. He was supposed to protect the complainant, yet he invaded her privacy, took away her dignity and disgraced her. The only suitable sentence the court could impose on the accused is life imprisonment”, said Letaba.

Magistrate van Niekerk concurred with the prosecutor that the accused did not provide the court with compelling and substantial circumstance for imposition of a lesser sentence. He subsequently sentenced Monareng to life imprisonment. Van Niekerk also ordered that the accused’s name should be included in the National Register for Sex Offenders and declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

The acting Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State, Advocate Navilla Somaru, has commended the good work done by the instigations team and the prosecutor in ensuring that the accused is removed from society.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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