

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 09 MARCH 2018**

**RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR THE MURDER OF HIS GIRLFRIEND**

The North West High Court sitting in Vryburg sentenced Neo Mogapi to two life imprisonment terms for the murder and rape of Kenalemotho Prudence Theolang.

On the evening of 10 May 2017, the accused phoned the deceased on her cell phone. According to the deceased's cousin, they had an argument over the phone. During the conversation, the accused requested the deceased to meet on the streets. The deceased then requested her cousin to accompany her to meet the accused.

The deceased could not find the accused on the street. The accused called to say that she must come in another location. They went back home without having to meet with the accused. After a few minutes, the accused phoned again and requested the deceased to meet again on the street, this time the deceased went to meet the accused alone and leaving her cell phone. That was the last time the deceased was seen alive by her cousin.

On that night, the deceased did not come back home and she was found dead by a passer-by in an open veld. She was partially dressed and her panty pulled downwards to her knees. According to the post mortem report, the deceased died as result of manual strangulation.

The accused was convicted of murder and rape. The state led evidence in court that the deceased was last seen when she was going to meet the accused whom they had a love relationship after having an unpleasant conversation over the phone. The state further stated that the accused did not coincidentally meet the deceased on the street, but he actually invited the deceased to the street, at the time of preparing to sleep.

During aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Pitso Sebothe, argued that the accused did not coincidentally meet the deceased on the street, but he actually invited her to the street. He further stated that the accused pleaded not guilty and failed to take responsibility of his action. Advocate Sebothe further said the accused shown no remorse and further put up with false defence and aggravated the ordeal of the deceased's family who attended the court.

When delivering the judgement, Judge Tebogo Djadje stated that the trial on its own was traumatic because the witness who testified broke down during the court session and had to adjourn to allow the witness to compose herself before she can resume with her testimony. She said, the deceased died in an undignified way because she was undressed and exposed for everyone to see. The judge sentenced the accused to life imprisonment for one count of rape and life imprisonment for one count of murder.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Frank Lesenyego**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West**

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