

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 04 OCTOBER 2019**

**RE: RAPE TERROR LENDS PERPETRATOR IN PRISON FOR LIFE**

On Monday 30 September 2019, the Johannesburg High Court sentenced 28 year old Benito Selemane to 8 life imprisonment terms for his four year reign of terror on the East Rand residents.

Selemane was charged with 52 counts, inclusive of 8 rapes and 11 charges of kidnapping and 10 of robbery with aggravating circumstances. He preyed on unsuspecting taxi commuters (all women) by following them from the taxi rank to a secluded area where he would kidnap, rob and rape them.

Counsel for the defence, Adv Christopher Pillay argued for a lighter sentence, citing that the victims did not suffer any serious injuries. Contrary to his arguments, the state argued that the victims were left with psychological and emotional scars for life, as a result of these crimes perpetrated against them. The prosecution further reminded the court that the accused has shown no remorse and only presented admissions after realising that the state had in fact placed overwhelming evidence against him.

Urging the court to be mindful of the scourge of crimes against women and children and the need to reassure society that our courts are capable and equipped to deal with this scourge, the prosecution submitted that the minimum prescribed sentence for each of the rapes is applicable in this case as the defence failed to adduce of any compelling and substantial circumstances warranting the court to deviate from life imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in the Gauteng Local Division, Adv Andrew Chauke applauded the work done by Adv Moleko and her junior, Ms Valencia Dube in their quest to improve the safety of South African citizens. "Such strides are encouraging towards the fight against gender based violence", he said.

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