

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 15 FEBRUARY 2018**

**RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS IMPRISONMENT**

The Lebowakgomo Regional Court sentenced Moses Mogau Petja (27) of Makurung village to 18 years imprisonment for the rape of a 14 year-old girl.

On 21 September 2015, the minor was on her way from school when she met the accused. While she was walking, the man grabbed and dragged her into the bush. He hit her with a stone and began to rape her. When he was done, he gave the girl an amount R50-00 plus his mobile phone. The complainant discreetly sent a text message to her father. After a while, he left the scene.

On her way home, she met the police officials who accompanied her to her homestead. The father later informed the aunt of the ordeal. Two days later, the aunt pretending to be the complainant and called the accused to set up an appointment to meet later at the shop. Once at the shop the complainant spotted the accused and he was apprehended.

The accused denied the allegations against him and alleged that the complainant consented to have sexual intercourse. His defence was rejected by the court and was found guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Bertha Kotsedi submitted the victim impact report explaining how the complainant was traumatised. The court heard that she no longer wanted to go out to play with her friends out of fear that she could be attacked again. She further informed the court to take into account the age of the victim and the fact that the accused inflicted bodily injuries on the complainant. Another factor was that he did not show any remorse, the prosecutor said. She concluded by pleading with the court to sentence the accused to life imprisonment.

The court found that there were compelling and substantial circumstances to deviate from the prescribed sentence and accordingly sentence the accused to 18 years imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence whilst also showing its commitment in prosecuting those that undermine children's rights.

Kind Regards,

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