

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS

The Modimolle Regional Court sentenced a 35 year-old man from Baipeing Phagameng, Ephraim Malose Motebele, to 40 years imprisonment after he was convicted of four counts of rape and four counts of sexual grooming.

On 28 August 2017, Motebele used the 15 year old victim to lure other young girls from the age of nine to 15 years at Baipeing Phagameng area. He would then let them sniff glue and while they were in an intoxicated state, he would take turns raping them.

On 17 September 2017, he was arrested after the brother of the victim found her little sister lying in the street. She woke up and pointed the place where she was kept. The police were alerted and victim led them to the scene where the accused was arrested in his shack with other young girls.

During the trial, the accused pleaded not guilty but the DNA results linked the accused positively.

In aggravation of sentence, the victim impact report which was compiled by the social worker was submitted to the court. It demonstrated the impact the rape had on the victims and their families.

The prosecutor, Advocate Doria Keulder Groenewal, said that the victims will live with the memory of the incident for the rest of their lives. She further pleaded with the court to remove the accused from the community and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment as he has destroyed the minor children.

The court sentenced Motebele to 30 years for rape and 10 years for sexual grooming. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Limpopo, Advocate Ivy Thenga, commended the prosecutor and investigation team for their endless efforts in the fight against gender-based violence. Advocate Thenga further praised the community for rescuing the victim and handing the suspect over to the police.

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