

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 25 MAY 2017**

**RE: RAPISTS GET 18 & 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT TERMS**

The Limpopo High Court sentenced the accused, Samuel Pheehane Ramollo (28) and Sello Ronald Letsoalo (25) to 18 and 15 years respectively after they were convicted of three counts of rape and two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, on Tuesday, 23 May 2017.

According to the evidence presented in court, on 17 January 2015, the two accused and as yet an unknown companion broke into the rooms occupied by the complainants at residents outside the campus of Limpopo University at Mamotintane village in the district of Mankweng. The accused assaulted the 18 year old girl with a sjambok. They demanded money and her cell phone, thereafter, they forced her to accompany them to another room.

In the room, they robbed the three male occupants of their cell phone, laptop, pair of sandals, a bag of clothes and a pair of shoes. The three men were also assaulted with a sjambok. The girl was taken to a deserted spot where they took turns to rape her and abandoned her.

During the trial, the State Prosecutor, Advocate Manyenya Sebelebele led the evidence of the first victim who broke down in the witness stand. As the trial continued both accused abruptly changed a plea of not guilty and pleaded guilty.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, requested the court to impose a harsh sentence on the accused because the courts are flooded with rape cases involving young children and women. The court found that there were substantial and compelling circumstances that would warrant a deviation from the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment.

The victims expressed relief to see the matter coming to an end.

Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

The NPA welcomes the sentence, and DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga commends Advocate Sebelebele for ensuring that justice is served.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhangi**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP-Limpopo**

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