

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: SERIAL RAPIST SENTENCED

Last month, the high court sitting in Delmas sentenced Nthai Steve Radebe (30) of Maganagobuswa to 22 life sentences for multiple counts of rape and additional 80 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances and pointing of a firearm. The court papers reveal that the accused started these heinous crimes in February 2012 until October 2015. Some of these incidents happened near CN Mahlangu College at Siyabuswa where the accused would approach his victims at a gun point forced them to the bushes and raped them and would sometimes rob them of their belongings. Some of the victims are as young as 13 years of age and some were raped more than once.

Furthermore, on 04 October 2015, one of the complainants in the matter was walking with her boyfriend near Buhlebezwe where the accused assaulted the complainant's boyfriend, the boyfriend ran away leaving the victim with the accused. That is where the accused got an opportunity to rape the complainant moving her to different spots in bushes and raped her.

The accused was only arrested after he raped one of the victims who was with her friend when the incident happened then the friend was able to identify the accused to the police.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Eric Sihlangu led evidence of 50 witnesses including the evidence of the victim's impact statement and the accused was linked to these other offenses through DNA. The state further led evidence of J88 from the forensic nurse who examined some of the victims.

During sentencing, the presiding officer told the court that there are no compelling and substantial circumstances for the court to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence. The accused showed no remorse for his actions. The judge sentenced the

accused to 22 life sentences for 22 counts of rape, 60 years for 4 counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances and another 20 years for 4 counts of pointing a firearm.

The sentence sends a strong message to other would- be rapists who fall prey to defenceless women and children.

Kind Regards,

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