

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 11 FEBRUARY 2020**

**RE: TEACHER RAPED AND KIDNAPPED BY HER FORMER STUDENT WITH HIS FRIEND**

Eighteen year old Pheneas Kgomo and Lesiba Mercharson Molokomme (31) of Vianna village were sentenced by the Lephalale Regional Court, in Limpopo today. Kgomo was convicted of five counts which include housebreaking, robbery with aggravating circumstances, rape, kidnapping and theft of motor vehicle. His co accused, Molokomme was convicted of three counts which include rape, kidnapping and theft of a motor vehicle.

Evidence presented in court is that, during the night of 23 November 2018, Kgomo broke into the rented house of his former teacher, threatened her with a knife before robbing her of her belongings such as cellphone, money, bank card and car keys. He then tied her up with an electrical cord and raped her. He further took her and put her inside the boot of her car and drove off with her to the homestead of his co accused, Molokomme. Both accused left with her to a nearby ATM and withdrew her money. They drove off to the nearby bushes and tied her again with cables and took turns to rape her.

The complainant was left in the bushes, but she managed to break loose and ran to the nearest community to seek help. Her vehicle was later found abandoned next to Vianna village and Kgomo was arrested in possession of her car keys.

Both accused denied everything in court and did not show remorse, even though there was overwhelming evidence against them. Prosecutor Billy Mudavhi had to lead the evidence of the complainant who told the court that she felt humiliated by this ordeal, as Kgomo is her former student and that she has to deal with the stigma of being known as the teacher who was raped by her student.

The state argued that despite the fact that Kgomo was a minor during this incident, he was the mastermind in this case and has been convicted of a serious offence which was planned. As for Molokomme, the state asked the court not to deviate from the minimum sentence and should take into account that parliament passed those sentencing regimes to be implemented appropriately.

The court found that there were compelling and substantial circumstances to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence and sentenced Kgomo to 6 years for housebreaking, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstance, 20 years for rape. Molokomme was sentenced to life imprisonment for rape, 5 years for kidnapping and 7 years for theft of a motor vehicle. The court ordered that all counts to run concurrently with the count of rape.

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