

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 02 MAY 2018**

**RE: TRADITIONAL HEALER GOT TWO LIFE SENTENCES**

The Nebo Regional Court in Limpopo sentenced a traditional healer (38) to two life imprisonment following his conviction on two counts of rape. His name was concealed in order to protect the identity of the complainants.

In the first incident in 2014, the court heard that the 10 year-old minor was playing with her cousin when the accused called the cousin and sent her to the nearby shop to purchase some items. While the cousin was away, the accused led the complainant to his bedroom where he raped her. He then offered her an amount of R15 and also threatened to kill her should she disclose the incident.

In the second incident, in March 2015, the accused invited the 5 year-old complainant to his homestead pretending that he wanted to send her to the shop. Upon arrival, the accused raped her. The accused is a close relative of the complainant.

During trial, he denied the allegations against him. His defence was ultimately rejected by the court and was found guilty as charged.

The complainants were prepared by the Court Preparation Officer, Sharon Mulele before their evidence was led through the intermediary.

In aggravation of sentence, the State Prosecutor, Johannes Rampedi submitted the Victim Impact Report for both minors, explaining how the incident had an impact on them. He further stated that the accused betrayed the trust that the young children had in him. Rampedi pleaded with the court to impose a life sentence on each count.

The court agreed with prosecutions and remarked that it was more aggravating that minor kids were raped by a person that they trusted. Magistrate M.J Motubatsi said the

accused does not have respect for his family and relatives and found no substantial and compelling circumstance to justify imposition of a lesser sentence. The court also ordered his name to be entered into the National Register for Sexual Offenders.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo**

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