

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 13 APRIL 2018

RE: TRADITIONAL HEALER SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR RAPE

The Mankweng Regional Court sentenced Andries Malatjie (37) to life imprisonment on a charge of rape.

The court heard that on 04 June 2016, the accused raped the complainant (20) in the bushes at Sebayeng village. The accused asked the complainant to accompany him to the bushes to dig up some herbs. The accused is her family's traditional healer.

Once in the bush, he assaulted the complainant with fists until she became weak and proceeded to rape her. He then carried her to his homestead where he continued to rape her until the next morning when he released her.

During the trial, the accused pleaded not guilty and he claimed that the complainant had consented to the sexual intercourse. The court rejected his version and found him guilty as charged.

During sentencing, Advocate Masehela Makgomo, argued that the court has to consider that the accused betrayed the trust that the complainant had in him as her traditional healer. He further argued that it was more aggravating that the complainant was raped more than once and she also sustained injuries during the incident. He concluded by praying for the court to impose a minimum prescribed sentence of life imprisonment.

The court agreed with the state and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Ivy Thenga said, "Women and children are not safe in their communities therefore the sentence would go a long way in sending a loud message that violence against women and children will not be tolerated".

Kind Regards,

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