

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: TWO LIFE IMPRISONMENT TERMS FOR RAPE AND MURDER

The Klerksdorp Circuit Court sentenced Ben Dumile Lebeko last week to two terms of life imprisonment on rape and murder charges.

As there was absolutely no evidence to link any suspect to the rape and murder of the deceased, an inquest was opened. During late 2017, the Forensic Science Laboratory informed the investigating officer that they might have identified Lebeko's DNA profile as foreign DNA found on a cervical swab of the deceased. The inquest was then converted to a docket and a DNA reference sample was obtained from Lebeko to analyse and compare to the cervical swab. His warning statement was also obtained early 2018, and he stated that the deceased was his girlfriend.

The Forensic Science Laboratory sent a report once his DNA reference sample was analysed and compared and it was found that it was indeed his DNA profile on the cervical swab. Despite the version by Lebeko, the state decided to prosecute and the matter was enrolled late October 2018.

Lebeko admitted the correctness of the DNA report. The state could only call four witnesses. Dr Lala, who performed the post-mortem, the best friend of the deceased, testified that she did not have a relationship with Lebeko. The deceased's mother testified that she left the deceased at home on the evening of 3 July 2015 and discovered her body on the morning of 4 July 2015. Nobody ever saw the deceased with Lebeko.

The DPP North-West, Advocate Moipone Noko, has welcomed the conviction and sentencing in this matter, especially that they serve to further illustrate NPA's commitment to fight gender based violence. The prosecutor, Susanna Krause, is commended for her efforts in this matter.

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