

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 02 OCTOBER 2019**

**RE: TWO MEN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE**

The Mankweng Regional Court sentenced John Mabowa Phoshoko (28) and Hendrick Mashao Ragola (30) of Nobody Ga-Mothapo to life imprisonment for the rape of a 16 year-old girl.

On the night of the incident in September 2014, the complainant was at the tavern when both accused dragged her to their residence, where they took turns to rape her at knifepoint. After the ordeal, the complainant reported the matter to the police. The state prosecutor, Ruth Mpande handed in the medical report, which showed injuries suffered by the complainant from the ordeal.

In aggravation of sentence, Mpande submitted to the court that the accused preyed on a young, defenceless and vulnerable child. She further argued that the accused's actions deprived the innocent complainant of her childhood and left her with permanent emotional scars.

In handing down judgement, the presiding officer, Rykenburg could not find any substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the minimum sentence. Both accused were sentenced to life imprisonment.

The NPA commends law enforcement authorities for their collective efforts that secured a successful prosecution.

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