

Wolmaransstad rapist gets 40 years jail term

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A 25-YEAR-OLD man from Wolmaransstad was slapped with a hefty 40 years imprisonment after he was convicted for rape.

Lebogang Cedrick Mokgatla was found guilty by the local magistrates' court for offences he committed five years ago.

North West police spokesperson Sgt Kelebogile Moleko said Mokgatla would languish in jail for raping two women aged 25 and 22 in Wolmaransstad in 2013.

Moleko said the knife-wielding Mokgatla raped the two women after threatening to stab them should they fail to follow his orders.

"It was reported to the police that the victims were leaving a local tuck shop when the accused approached and threatened them with a knife. He then took them to an open field and raped them," Moleko said.

After the ordeal, the victims managed to report the matter to the police and two counts of rape were registered.

Moleko said search for the culprit then started but he was only apprehended about four years later.

"Following a thorough investigation and utilisation of investigative aids, Mokgatla was arrested on January 17, 2016, after being linked to the crime through DNA.

"The court sentenced him to 20 years imprisonment for each count of rape and he would have to serve them separately," she said.

During sentencing, the court also declared Mokgatla unfit to possess a firearm or ammunition.

Police management said the sentence would serve as a good example that sex crimes would be severely punished to end the scourge of women abuse in the province.

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