

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 04 NOVEMBER 2015**

**RE: GREAT GRANDFATHER SENTENCED FOR RAPE**

A 73 year-old man was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in the Verulam Regional Court last week for the rape he committed in 2013.

The complainant was a great granddaughter of the accused and they all lived together in Ndwedwe. In January 2013, the complainant's mother went to work away from home leaving the child with the old man. On the day of the incident, he sent her to his room to fetch cool drink. He followed her there and raped her. The accused threatened to kill by slitting her throat 'like a goat' if she reported the incident.

In February, the accused raped the child again, threatening her with violence and death. A few days later the child felt ill and was taken to the clinic by her mother. Upon being questioned by the nurse, the child told them about the rape.

Regional Court Prosecutor, Kaystree Ramsamujh led the evidence of the complainant and her mother. With the consent of the defence, she also handed in a medical report.

In her victim impact statement, facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Bongiwe Qwabe, the child said she felt embarrassed about the incident. Her school-work has deteriorated and she is not performing well at school. Also, she and her mother had to move and relocate from the accused's homestead where they had been staying before the incident.

Due to the advanced age of the accused, the presiding officer sentenced him to 5 years imprisonment in terms of Section 276(1) (i) of Act 51/1977. He will be eligible to convert his sentence into a period of correctional supervision at the discretion of the Department of Correctional Services after serving a compulsory period of 10 months imprisonment.

Kind Regards,

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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