

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST GETS 16 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

Tumelo Mahatla (24) was sentenced to an effective 16 years imprisonment in the Kokstad/Maluti Regional Court on Wednesday for the offences of rape and kidnapping that he committed in early October 2014.

On the night of the incident, the accused and his co-accused were drinking at a tavern when the complainant came in to buy something to drink. After drinking she left the tavern to go home and was followed by the men.

At some stage accused 2 disappeared and accused 1 grabbed her by the neck and threatened her with a knife as he pulled her into a dark spot where he raped her. He then dragged her to a shack belonging to accused 2 and raped her again. Accused 2 then arrived and also raped the complainant. The men took turns raping her until the early hours of the morning when they fell asleep.

The complainant managed to escape and went to the nearest police station where the matter was reported. The police went to the shack and arrested the men who were still asleep.

Both accused pleaded not guilty and when the matter was rolled over after the first appearance, accused 2 managed to escape. He still has not been re-arrested.

Accused 1 told the court that the complainant was his girlfriend and they had engaged in consensual intercourse with him using a condom.

Regional court prosecutor, S'bahle Mbanjwa led the evidence of the police official that took the first report as well as the district surgeon. The doctor confirmed that the

accused's DNA was found inside the complainant's body. During cross-examination, the accused could not explain how this could be if he maintained that he had worn a condom. It became apparent to the court that the accused's version was highly improbable and he was convicted.

He was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment for rape and 3 years imprisonment for kidnapping. The kidnapping sentence will run concurrently with that of rape resulting in an effective 16 years imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Advocate Moipone Noko welcomes the sentence. "We see the sentence as fitting the crime. We hope this has a deterrent effect on would-be offenders."

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

nramkisson@npa.gov.za

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