

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

DATE: 01 OCTOBER 2015

RE: AN EFFECTIVE 12 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPIST

Sibonakaliso Goda Cele (26) was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in the Verulam Regional Court on Monday for the rape of a girl that took place in March 2014.

The complainant lived with her family in Ndwedwe and on the day of the incident, a neighbour saw the accused pulling the girl into a bushy area. The neighbour followed them and saw the accused having sex with the complainant. She then reported what she saw to another neighbour who went to the scene. This person confronted the accused and pulled him off the complainant. The police were then called.

In court, the accused defended his actions by saying that the sexual intercourse was consensual. The state, represented by Regional Court Prosecutor, Kaystree Ramsamujh presented the evidence of the two eyewitnesses, one of whom mentioned that she followed the accused into the bushes because she knew that the girl was kept within the strict confines of her home and would not have known the accused.

A clinical psychologist testified that the complainant was found to have a profound range of mental disorder which is the highest in the scale of mental disability. It was thus concluded that the complainant was not in a position to give consent to the sexual intercourse.

In a victim impact statement facilitated by the Court Preparation Officer, Bongiwe Qwabe, the girl's grandmother mentioned that they are still traumatised by the incident and that the complainant is very fearful to venture outside the house.

The court rejected the accused's version and he was sentenced to an effective 12 years imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes this sentence.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

Enquiries: nramkisson@npa.gov.za

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