

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPIST

A 29 year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Verulam Regional Court on Monday. This relates to the incident where he raped a woman in September last year.

The accused and the complainant knew each other – they met at a butchery in Tongaat on the day of the incident. He offered her a lift home and she accepted. On the way, the accused drove to a secluded spot where he pulled out a firearm and threatened to shoot the woman if she didn't comply with his instructions.

The accused raped the complainant three times. He then dropped her off near her home and was later pointed out to the police by the woman.

In his defence, the accused told the court that the complainant consented to the intercourse. However, the court found his version of the events to be riddled with inconsistencies and his evidence was thus rejected.

In aggravation of sentence, Regional Court Prosecutor Rakesh Singh, handed in a victim impact statement facilitated by the Court Preparation Officer Bongiwe Qwabe. Here the complainant mentioned that the incident had a devastating effect on her life. She now feels unsafe around men and cannot be in a relationship with anyone. She also noted that the incident affected her concentration and she had to repeat an entire year of studies after she failed her modules.

Singh told the court of the accused's previous convictions. These include possession of an unlicensed firearm as well as two instances where he paid an admission of guilt for assault.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara
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