

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 SENTENCED TO 26 YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT

A 45-year old man from Richmond in the Northern Cape was on Friday sentenced to 26 years in prison after he was convicted of an array of sexual offences by the Richmond Regional Court. Magistrate Amanda Venter sentenced Isak Pyle Afrika after she found him guilty on four counts, namely, sexual grooming of a child, displaying of his genitals to a child, sexual penetration of a child and another charge of displaying his genitals to a child.

The court heard that in 2015, the grandmother of the complainant felt sympathy for Afrika who was unemployed and had nowhere to stay. She accommodated him in her house, provided him with food and assisted him with his laundry. During the course of time, Afrika built a very good relationship with all the family members and gained their trust, but more importantly the trust of the 10-year old victim.

However, Afrika would lure the complainant into his bedroom which was situated separately from the main house where he started to give her sweets, presents and played games with her. The family did not suspect anything because they trusted the accused.

The trust was severely breached in that on several separate occasions, he committed acts of sexual grooming by showing his genitals to the complainant and eventually raped her. The accused was arrested after the elder brother of the complainant walked in during an incident in the main house where the accused had exposed his private parts to the complainant. The complainant informed her grandmother that the accused has been doing this for a long time.

State prosecutor, Advocate Corry Jonkers requested the court to impose a heavy sentence on the accused because he did not only betray the trust the family had on him, but he also took advantage of an innocent young girl.

"The accused did not show any remorse for his actions, and the court cannot sympathise with him as he would have continued with his evil deeds if the brother of the complainant did not walk in on them. Besides, the only way for the court to stem the tide of these kinds of offences is to impose heavy sentences on perpetrators," said Advocate Jonkers.

The magistrate subsequently sentenced Afrika to 20 years in prison for rape, three years for displaying his genitals to a child and sexual grooming. The effective term handed down to the accused was 26 years direct imprisonment.

The acting Director of Public Prosecutions in the Northern Cape, Advocate Abram Botha has applauded the good work done by the investigating officer and the prosecutor in ensuring that a rapist is removed from our society.

The NPA welcomes the sentence

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

Enquiries: pshuping@npa.gov.za

083 699 5900