

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

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

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 11 February 2016**

**RE: LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPIST**

Mqanduli Regional Court sentenced 26 year-old Viwe Kecu to life imprisonment yesterday for raping a 20 year-old high school student in January 2014.

According to evidence that was presented in court on Friday, 14 February 2014 Kecu accosted his victim near an isolated dipping tank, situated between two villages, while the victim was walking home from school. He forcefully and daringly dragged the student to his homestead, took her school uniforms and hid them, locked her in his room and raped her repeatedly for three consecutive days. During all these days Kecu deprived his victim food.

When the victim was released by Kecu on a Monday morning she did not immediately report the matter to the police but only confided on her sister-in-law when he attempted to rape her again in the following week. During the second attempt the victim managed to escape.

During the trial, Kecu pleaded not guilty claiming he had consensual sex with the victim. However, Regional Court Prosecutor Melikhaya Dyakopu led evidence from Kecu's relative who had witnessed him dragging the victim and tried to intervene but was threatened with violence by the rapist. After the court heard the evidence from Kecu's relative which corroborated that of the victim it was convinced that he was guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

It emerged during arguments in mitigation and aggravation of sentence that Kecu is HIV positive, even though it could not be established that he infected the victim. It is for this reason, among others, that Dyakopu appealed for the harshest sentence which the court granted.

The NPA welcomes this sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to would-be rapists who target vulnerable people.

Kind Regards

**Luxolo Tyali**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha**

**Enquiries: [ltyal@npa.gov.za](mailto:ltyal@npa.gov.za)**

**073 555 9292**