

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS FOR RAPING HIS WIFE

Yesterday, the Engcobo Regional Court sentenced a man to twenty years imprisonment for raping his estranged wife last year. The 56-year old man, who cannot be named to protect the identity of his 53-year old victim, had been staying separately from his wife for more than seven years.

According to evidence presented in court, on the evening of 06 November 2015, the man woke up his eight-year old son whom he was staying with to accompany him to his older son's homestead where his wife was residing at Msintsana village. He was armed with a bush knife and a knobkerrie. On arrival at his son's homestead, they found the gate locked but they jumped over it and entered the premises. He threatened his wife to go with them to his marital home where he was staying with the youngest son, forcing her to also jump over the gate as the key was not available to unlock the gate. At their marital home he raped his wife twice, hitting her with open hands in the process, as she was resisting.

During the trial, the rapist husband pleaded not guilty, claiming that sexual intercourse was consensual. However Regional Court Prosecutor, Loyiso Methuso presented evidence of the victim, their adult daughter who was present when her father forcefully took her mother from their brother's homestead, and the eight-year old boy, who accompanied his father on the night in question.

The man testified in his defence in support of his claim of consent. Under cross-examination, he was clearly exposed that his version could not be possibly true and the court rejected his version and convicted him of rape as charged.

The court found there are substantial and compelling circumstances justifying deviation from the prescribed life imprisonment and it sentenced the convict to 20 years imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to men who treat their wives as property that they can abuse as they please.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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