

Media Statement



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RE: Rapist Gets 5 Life Terms And 10 Years Imprisonment

A thirty year-old man was handed down 5 terms of life imprisonment and an additional 10 years in the Pietermaritzburg High Court yesterday, for the rapes he committed last year.

The accused is a traditional healer in the Msinga area. He approached the family of the complainants with a prophecy that the complainants were bewitched and that they would die if he did not cure them. The family would then send the complainants with the accused to his home. He convinced the complainants that the sexual penetration was part of the healing process.

The incidents happened from July to August last year and the complainants (all males) were aged between 15 and 20 years old.

State Advocate, Suhana Singh handed in a victim impact statement facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Thobekile Chuene and compiled by each of the complainants. Each of them told of the trauma they encountered during and after the ordeal. They said that they were teased by members of the community and felt depressed and alone. They mentioned that they no longer socialised and felt suicidal.

Advocate Singh, in aggravation of sentence, told the court that the accused used his position as a traditional healer to manipulate and instil fear into the complainants and their families. He made them believe that the boys would die if he didn't cure them. She said that the accused showed no remorse at any stage.

The court sentenced the accused to 5 terms of life imprisonment for each of the rape (on diverse occasions) counts and 10 years imprisonment where the accused was convicted of a single act of rape against one of the complainants. The sentences will run concurrently with that of life.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Advocate Moipone Noko said she finds the sentence fitting and hope that it will have the necessary deterrent effect on sexual predators. "It is disappointing to see how the accused betrayed the relationship of trust that he had with the complainants and their families. It is very unfortunate that the complainants may be emotionally scarred for a very long time," she added.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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