

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: BLOEMFONTEIN MAN GETS LIFE FOR RAPE OF A 9 YEAR-OLD RELATIVE

A 40 year-old man from Mangaung in Bloemfontein was last week sentenced to life imprisonment after he was convicted of raping a 9 year-old girl by the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court. The accused is related to the complainant. He is the brother of the complainant's mother. Magistrate Olivia Majosi sentence the accused, who cannot be named to protect the identity of the complainant, for rape that happened on 3 January 2018.

The court heard that on the day of the incident, the accused called the complainant to his house and asked her to help him wash dishes. Whilst the complainant was busy with the dishes, the accused called her to his bedroom where he overpowered and raped her. The complainant reported the incident to her mother when she got home. The mother reported the matter to the police and the complainant was taken to hospital.

State Prosecutor, Tholoana Sekhonyana handed in a J88 medico legal examination form which indicated that the complainant sustained genital injuries as a result of rape. She also handed in clinic records of the accused showing that he was diagnosed with HIV in 2011.

In mitigation, Sekhonyana requested the court to impose life imprisonment because the accused raped his sister's child who was expecting protection from him. She further stated that the fact that the accused raped the complainant knowing of his HIV status should count as an aggravating factor.

"The accused should be removed from society because he violated a 9 year-old relative knowing very well that he could infect her with HIV. The complainant trusted the accused hence she did not have any problem in going into his house but the accused

betrayed the trust she had in him. The only appropriate sentence that the court could impose on the accused is life imprisonment”, said Sekhonyana.

Magistrate Majosi concurred with the prosecutor that the accused did not provide the court with compelling circumstances for imposition of a lesser sentence. She subsequently sentenced the accused to life imprisonment.

The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State, Advocate Navilla Somaru has commended the good work done the investigating officer, Constable Motshabi and the prosecutor in ensuring that the accused is removed from society.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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