

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: CHILD RAPIST RECEIVES LIFE IMPRISONMENT

The Zwelitsha Regional Court sitting in Seymour recently sentenced a 28-year-old man to two terms of life imprisonment for raping his seven-year-old niece. The rapes occurred during two separate occasions in Kolomane village, during June 2017.

The evidence is that the child was playing with her sister and other peers on the playground when the man appeared and asked the her why she did not clean his house. The man called her to his house using obscene language. The child was afraid and complied with the instructions to clean his house. Thereafter he took her to his bed where he forcefully raped and sodomised her and threatened to kill her if she reported the ordeal to anyone. The incident was reported only three months after the child was raped and the delay in reporting is attributed to the man's threats.

The prosecutor, Zoyisilie Ngxokwana, sought the assistance of the Court Preparation Officer for the consultations with the victim, and personally arranged an interpreter to facilitate the consultation to create a conducive environment for her to be comfortable to narrate what happened to her.

During the trial, the mother of the victim explained to the court how the sexual molestation emotionally affected the minor. She revealed that her daughter did not trust male persons and got into fights with boys her own age. A huge obstacle in this case was that no DNA was available to link the accused to the offence. The meticulous presentation of the victim's evidence and that of other witnesses is what led to the court convicting the accused on both counts of rape.

This sentence sends a powerful message to the community of Kolomane that rape, in particular of children, will not be tolerated. Ngxokwana showed utmost patience and professionalism in dealing with the child victim.

Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

Anelisa Ngcakani

Regional Spokesperson: DPP PE & Grahamstown

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