

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 27 MARCH 2018**

**RE: CHILD RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE**

Last week, the Elliotdale Regional Court sentenced Thembinkosi Siqubu (31) to life imprisonment after convicting him for raping his eleven year-old relative on a number of occasions.

According to evidence presented in court, Siqubu of Madwaleni village in the district of Elliotdale, is the cousin of the victim's mother. They shared a home with the victim, her mother and the victim's sickly grandmother. It is not clear when did he start raping the young girl, but his criminal deeds were exposed on 15 July 2011.

On the day in question, there was a traditional ceremony in the village. Siqubu and the victim's mother attended, and the 11 year-old girl was left behind to assist her frail grandmother. During the day, the rapist left the ceremony, went looking for the young girl, and found her playing with her peers not far from their home. He instructed her to go with him back home to cover her grandmother with a blanket but on their way home, he raped her in the bushes near a dilapidated house and returned to the ceremony afterwards. After her ordeal, the girl went back to her playing mates crying. When they enquired, she told them that the man had raped her and he had been raping her for some time.

Later that night, the young girls informed their parents who took her to Sinawe Thuthuzela Care Centre on the following day, where the doctor confirmed recent forced penetration. The rapist was arrested but due to a number of challenges with investigations, the case was struck off the court roll in 2015. Case manager, Advocate Noluvo Msekela re-enrolled the case in July last year.

During trial, Siqubu denied fetching the young girl, but under cross-examination by Advocate Msekela he could not explain why the young victim's friends, who were state

witnesses, could make fabrications and implicate him. Magistrate Sizakele Sihlahla was convinced that Siqubu was guilty as charged.

In addition to the life term, Magistrate Sihlahla ordered the rapist's name be added in the register of sex offenders.

The DPP in the Mthatha Division, Barry Madolo commended Advocate Msekela for her dedications in ensuring justice for the young victim, even after such a long time.

Kind Regards,

**Luxolo Tyali**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha**

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