

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 05 NOVEMBER 2019

RE: CHILD RAPISTS SENTENCED TO LIFE

Last week, in two consecutive days, the Tsomo Regional Court sentenced two men to life imprisonment after convicting them on charges of raping young girls in separate incidents.

On Tuesday, 29 October 2019, Regional Court Magistrate Bantu Kovu sentenced Simphiwe Sondamase (32) to life imprisonment for raping a 10 year-old girl.

Evidence presented in court is that Sondamase was a friend of the victim's father and frequented the home of the little girl in their neighbourhood of Khothane village, in the district of Ngqamakhwe. On 08 March 2017, the victim was in the company of her grandmother, going to buy a live chicken from a local farmer. They went to a certain homestead where there was a traditional ceremony to look for the farmer, and the grandmother got inside the said homestead, while the young girl remained outside.

Within a short space of time, the rapist managed to take the girl to his place and raped her in broad daylight. When the grandmother came out of the aforementioned homestead, she was told by children who were playing nearby that Sondamase had left with the granddaughter. The granny rushed to Sondamase's place, pushed the door open and found the rapist in the act. He was immediately apprehended by neighbours and handed over to the police.

During trial, Sondamase pleaded not guilty and prosecutor Ayanda Nkumanda, for the state, had to lead the evidence of the grandmother and the victim.

On Wednesday, 30 October 2019, the same court sentenced another rapist, Melikhaya Mdaku (37) to life imprisonment for raping a 12 year-old girl twice.

Evidence is that Mdaku stayed not far from the home the victim shared with her grandmother in Bhengu village, in the district of Tsomo. One morning, in the period between July and August 2017, the girl was walking to school when Mdaku called her to

his place. The unsuspecting girl, who knew the assailant, followed the man into his house, where he raped her before threatening her with death if she told anyone.

A few days later, Mdaku found the girl alone at her home and raped her on top of her grandmother's bed. It is after the second rape that the young girl confided to her grandmother about her ordeal.

Advocate Bekisisa Mpapela, for the state, led evidence of the grandmother and that of the victim, the court was convinced that Mdaku was guilty as charged, the rapists denials.

Both victims in these two cases were assisted at the Butterworth Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC), and forensic evidence taken at the TCC assisted the court in finding the two rapists guilty.

NPA welcomes the sentences with the hope that they will have the desired deterrence effect to other would-be criminals who prey on vulnerable children.

Luxolo Tyali
Regional Spokesperson
Eastern Cape
Tel: 047 501 2630
Fax: 047 501 2652
Cell: 073 555 9292