

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: DOUBLE LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPIST

Last week, the Scottburgh Regional Court sentenced a 39 year-old man to two terms of life imprisonment for the rape of a child and a woman in Hibberdene in 2017 and 2019 respectively.

In the first instance, the 13 year-old girl was returning home from the shop with her friends when the accused chased them. He caught her and dragged her into a bush where he assaulted her with a stick and then raped her. He then ordered her to wash in the river.

The second complainant, the accused's aunt who is physically challenged, was with her grandchildren when he went to her house. He dragged her to a nearby rondavel where he raped her twice. The accused was arrested a few days later.

In court, the accused maintained his defense that both complainants consented to the intercourse. However, Prosecutor Sibusiso Mhlongo led the testimonies of the complainants, the first reports and the evidence of the doctor, which said otherwise.

In aggravation of sentence, Prosecutor Mhlongo handed in victim impact statements compiled by the complainants and facilitated by court preparation officer, Beaufort Shinga. In her statement, the accused's aunt said that she was so humiliated because she thought of him as her child. She said that the trauma of the incident still gives her panic attacks and she is always afraid. The other complainant said the incident affected her performance at school and she has become withdrawn, wanting to be alone. She also said that people in her community laugh at her and shame her for something that was not her fault.

In welcoming the sentence, the Kwa-Zulu Natal Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv. Elaine Zungu said, "I hope that this sentence assists in addressing the scourge of sexual offences rife in the country. Well done to those involved in this successful prosecution."

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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