

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: FATHER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE OF HIS DAUGHTER

Yesterday, the Mankweng Regional Court sentenced a 43-year-old father to life imprisonment for the rape of his 15-year-old daughter. The name of the accused was concealed in order to protect the complainant.

The court heard that on the morning of 15 July 2018 the accused fetched the complainant from her grandfather's homestead to their home. While walking through the bush, he pulled her to side, ordered her to undress all her clothes, and proceeded to rape her wearing a condom.

After the incident, the accused left the condom at the scene and they proceeded home. The matter was reported to the police after the complainant informed her sister about her ordeal.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge; however, the state presented DNA evidence to link the accused to the offence. Advocate Makgomothe Masehela also led seven witnesses including police officers to corroborate the evidence of the complainant. The J88 medical form was also handed in to corroborate the evidence of the doctor who testified about the injuries suffered by the complainant from this incident.

In aggravation of sentence, the Victim Impact Report prepared by Mankweng Thuthuzela Care Centre Social Worker, Refilwe Motloutsi was handed in. The complainant was also called and testified that she resents the accused and does not want to see him again. She further testified that she finds it difficult to trust males. She is always concerned about safety in her surroundings and her schoolwork deteriorated rapidly as she is repeating Grade 9. Advocate Masehela submitted that the accused abused his position of trust as a parent who is expected to protect his daughter from any form of abuse. He

further argued that this type of crime deserved the ultimate sentence, life imprisonment, as it was a horrific act.

The probation officer recommended that the accused must be sentenced to life imprisonment as the complainant was 15 years when the incident occurred. The presiding officer Ms Pillay remarked that rape is a serious offence, constituting a humiliating, degrading and brutal invasion of privacy and dignity of the person. The court agreed with submissions of the state that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Ivy Thenga welcomed the decision and expressed hope that would-be sexual predators would be deterred by the sentence. She further encouraged communities to report this type of crime to the police.

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