

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: 10 APRIL 2019

RE: GARDNER SENTENCED FOR RAPE

On Monday, 08 April 2019, the Kwaggafontein Regional Court sentenced Speelman Mahlangu (67) of Mabhoko Village to 20 years direct imprisonment after he was convicted of raping a 7 year-old minor in 2018.

Evidence presented in court reveals that on 17 February 2018, the accused was working at the victim's grandmother's house as a gardener. He then took the victim to the toilet and raped her. One of the neighbours came in and saw the accused with the victim in the toilet. He eventually alerted the community and the police and the accused was apprehended.

During trial, the accused pleaded guilty to the offence and Regional Court Prosecutor, Nicky Coetzee argued that a prescribed minimum sentence should be imposed in spite of the fact that the accused pleaded guilty. Further to that, a victim impact report compiled by a probation officer was handed in, including a presentence report and the J88.

The court found that there were compelling and substantial circumstances to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence as the accused was subjected to mob justice after he was apprehended by community members.

Mahlangu was sentenced to 20 years direct imprisonment. He was declared unfit to possess a firearm, unsuitable to work with children and the court ordered his name to be entered into the Sexual Offences Register.

The NPA condemns violence against vulnerable women and children in our society.

Kind Regards,

Monica Nyuswa

Regional Spokesperson: DPP: Mpumalanga Satellite Office

Enquiries: mnyuswa@npa.gov.za

076 485 5446