

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 27 JULY 2015

RE: 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPIST

A thirty one year-old man was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in the Verulam Regional Court on Wednesday last week after he was convicted for the rape and aggravated robbery of his elderly neighbour.

The incident occurred in November last year when the accused broke into the complainant's home in the early hours of the morning. He then assaulted her severely with his hands and also lifted her into the air and threw her onto the floor. He then raped her and demanded money. She gave him her handbag which contained her pension money. After kicking her once more, the accused fled the scene. The woman reported the incident and the accused was arrested.

Regional court prosecutor, Kaystree Ramsamujh handed in a victim impact statement which was facilitated by Bongiwe Qwabe, the court preparation officer in Verulam. In this statement, the complainant said that she is scared to live alone and does not trust people easily. Also, that it took three months for her injuries to heal. She mentioned that after the incident she had no food to eat as the accused had stolen the money she had kept to buy groceries.

Ramsamujh argued, in aggravation of sentence that the aged can be placed in the same category as children as they are vulnerable members of society and are soft targets. They require and expect equal protection of our courts. She said that the complainant was old and frail and posed no resistance to the accused to warrant such a vicious attack.

The accused was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for housebreaking to commit a crime unknown to the state, 15 years imprisonment for rape and 10 years imprisonment

for robbery with aggravating circumstances. The presiding officer ruled that 5 years from the aggravated robbery must run consecutively to the 15 years imprisonment, thus resulting in an effective 20 years sentence, whilst the other 5 years and count 1 will run concurrently.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Adv Moipone Noko welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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