

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

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RE: 20 YEARS FOR RAPIST FATHER

A 52 year-old man was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in the Verulam Regional Court last week after he was convicted for the rape of his daughter. The accused raped the girl on several occasions and eventually the complainant confided in her family and the accused was arrested.

During the trial, the accused's defence was that the complainant wrongfully implicated him as he had forced her to attend school. He further stated that the school principal would testify to this. However, when the court called the principal, he told the court that the complainant had also reported the offence to him. The court found the accused to be a poor witness as he had changed his version as the trial progressed.

In aggravation of sentence, regional court prosecutor, Rakesh Singh handed in a victim impact statement which was facilitated by the court preparation officer, Bongiwe Qwabe. In this statement, the complainant explained the psychological and emotional trauma that she had suffered. She also mentioned that she had attempted suicide by taking an overdose. She said that she felt unsafe in her home and had recurring nightmares of the incident.

The National Prosecuting Authority views this sentence as fitting, especially since the matter was finalised during Child Protection week. It is our mandate to protect the rights of children even where their parents are the perpetrators.

Kind Regards,

Issued by:

Luvuyo Mfaku
NPA Spokesperson
0823786199
lmfaku@npa.gov.za