

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: 02 APRIL 2019

RE: LENGTHY JAIL TERM FOR CHILD RAPIST

Last week, the Centane Regional Court sentenced Mkhawuleli Gobe (43) to twenty-two (22) years imprisonment after he was convicted of raping a twelve year-old girl.

Evidence presented in court was that, the minor victim and the rapist resided in the same neighbourhood at Mbokothwana village in the district of Centane. On 28 June 2015, the girl was sent by her mother to a shop in their village to buy bread. While on her way to the shop, she met Gobe, who was known to her as a distant relative who had visited her home earlier that day. The rapist dragged the minor to an open field next to a stream and raped her. After raping the girl, Gobe threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the rape and promised to buy the young victim a cell phone.

When the victim got home, she informed her mother about the rape and the mom took her daughter to Centane Police Station where a case of rape was opened, and Gobe was subsequently arrested. During trial, Gobe pleaded not guilty claiming that the minor was his girlfriend and the sex was consensual.

Regional Court Prosecutor, Nontle Sakwe led the evidence of the victim, her mother and that of a community member who met the rapist walking the young girl to the deserted area of their village before the rape incident. The state also represented a Victim Impact Statement prepared by Court Preparation Officer, Brenda Tyukala. Magistrate Doreen de Waal was convinced that Gobe was guilty as charged, but found that there were compelling circumstances for deviation from the life sentence, as prayed for by the state.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded rapists who intend preying on vulnerable children.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

Enquiries: ltjali@npa.gov.za

047 502 2630