

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 28 AUGUST 2020

RE: LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPING A TODDLER

The Cala Regional Court sentenced Abongile Nkuhlu (22) to life imprisonment for raping his four year-old cousin.

On 01 June 2019, Nkuhlu visited the home of his maternal aunt at Ndondo Square in Cala. When the aunt left for work she took her four year-old toddler to the neighbours' house, as per her normal routine. At about midday, while the toddler was playing, she strayed back to her home where Nkuhlu had been sleeping. He raped her. As fate would have it, the victim's 14 year-old brother, who was returning from school, walked in and caught Nkuhlu red handed, in the act of raping the infant.

The boy immediately reported the rape to the neighbours and his parents, and the child was taken to the doctor, who confirmed that she had been violated. Nkuhlu was arrested and confessed to the crime, but downplayed important aspects in his confession to the police. That necessitated the state prosecutor to present DNA evidence, and lead the evidence of the mother of the child to show the impact the rape had had on the victim and her family.

Addressing the court for sentencing, Senior Public Prosecutor, Monde Magenu revealed that Nkuhlu has a pending rape case in the neighbouring town of Elliot and had a history of using drugs. The court concurred with the state's submission that the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment was the only fitting sanction for Nkuhlu's crime, regardless of his confession and guilty plea.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Luxolo Tyali
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