

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 SEPTEMBER 2020

RE: MAN SENTENCED FOR RAPING A 15 MONTH OLD BABY

The High Court of South Africa: Eastern Cape Division, Bhishe sentenced a 62 year-old man from Mdantsane, Peter Tshemese, to 18 years imprisonment for raping a 15 month-old baby.

In October 2018 at his house in Mdantsane, Tshemese penetrated the baby girl with his finger. Moreover, medical examinations revealed that the hymen of the child was broken and that there was swelling and tearing on her private part.

The mother of the child is a family friend of the Tshemese family and Tshemese's wife was babysitting the baby while the mother was at work. Tshemese's wife heard the child crying in a strange manner, she went to investigate and found the baby girl in the same bed as her husband. She discovered that the buttons of the baby's romper had been loosened and that her diaper had blood on it.

The prosecutor for the case, Advocate Shandre Grootboom, stated in court that Tshemese, took advantage of an innocent baby girl when he was in a position of trust as a father figure to the baby. "He deprived the baby of her innocence. She was unable to protect herself." She added that Tshemese was not remorseful.

During sentencing, Judge Belinda Hartle said that Tshemese did not take responsibility and was not remorseful for his actions. She added that he betrayed his own wife and the parents of the baby, as he was a father figure to the baby. "You took advantage of the situation and the vulnerability of the baby."

However, Judge Hartle also said that the imposition of a life sentence would be disproportionate as Tshemese is 62-years-old and a first offender.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Anelisa Ngcakani

NPA Regional spokesperson:

Eastern Cape Division angcakani@npa.gov.za

083 593 0833