

PRESS RELEASE



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN GETS LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPING ESTRANGED WIFE

Today the Port Elizabeth High Court sentenced Zukile July (35) to Life imprisonment for raping and sodomising his then 30 year-old estranged wife. The incident occurred on 30 March 2018 at Motherwell in Port Elizabeth.

July and the victim had individually attended a family gathering at a relative's house on the day of the incident. After midnight, the victim went to sleep in one of the rooms. July called her and asked to join her. She agreed and soon after he arrived in the room, grabbed, strangled, raped and sodomised her. During the assault he bit her on various parts of her body to the point of biting off a portion of her left ear.

After raping her, he fell asleep. She then managed to escape and ran to her cousin's home where she was rushed to hospital. July was ultimately arrested on 12 April 2018 by the Port Elizabeth members of the Family Violence and Sexual Offences Unit.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment for three counts of rape and three-years for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm (AGBH). The sentences will all run concurrently.

During sentencing proceedings, the prosecutor, Advocate Velile Makasana, argued that the public and government trust the machinery of courts to deal with the scourge of violence against women and children. He argued that a clear message must be sent to the public that courts do not tolerate the commission of such heinous and barbaric crimes. He added that the prescribed minimum sentences should be strictly imposed in cases of this nature.

The Acting Director for Public Prosecutions, Mr Livingstone Sakata, welcomed the sentences, congratulated the prosecutor and the investigating team for their dedication and hard work in securing this hefty sentence.

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