

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE

The Mankweng Regional Court sentenced a 47 year-old man to life imprisonment last week for the rape of his niece. The accused cannot be named to protect the complainant's identity. The crime was committed in June 2015.

The court heard that the complainant, who was nine years' old at the time went to play next to the spaza shop belonging to the accused. He called her into the tuckshop and promised her some sweets. When the complainant entered he instructed her to undress her clothes. She did as instructed. He put her on the bed and proceeded to have sex with the young girl. When he finished, he gave her an amount of R1.50 to buy snacks. He then warned her not to tell anyone and promised to kill the young girl.

The complainant told the court that it was not the first incident that he had sex with her. It had happened many times before. She reported the incidents to her sister after her sister became suspicious. Later, her sister reported the matter to the police.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges and denied the allegations. The court rejected his version and subsequently found him guilty as charged.

During trial, the employee of the accused confirmed that he once found the complainant inside the spaza shop with the accused. The doctor who examined the complainant also testified on the injuries observed on the complainant's genitalia. The J88 was also handed in as evidence to corroborate the doctor's evidence.

The Thuthuzela Social worker compiled the Victim Impact Report which was handed in by the prosecutor, Johannes Masehela during sentencing in aggravation of the sentence. The report showed that the family of the accused is embarrassed by his conduct towards the child. They lamented that he used to shower the child with sweets and other cheap

items which made the family suspicious. The family is now afraid to leave their children unattended while the accused is around.

The pre-sentence report was also handed in and the Probation Officer recommended a life imprisonment for the accused to deter possible future offenders.

The court found that there was no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the minimum sentence of life imprisonment. The accused was also declared unfit to possess a firearm and his names will be registered in the National Register for Sex Offenders.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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