

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: 11 OCTOBER 2018

RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE

The Lebowakgomo Regional Court sentenced Richard Tema (30) to life imprisonment for raping a 14 year-old girl.

It is alleged that the complainant was sent by her mother to Podungwane village to withdraw money from the ATM. She then boarded a taxi driven by the accused and was the only passenger. She paid the R6-00 taxi fare and the accused refused to take it. Instead, he drove to a certain shop where he bought snacks and soft drinks for her. The complainant refused to accept the offer. The accused then drove to the local bush where he raped her inside his car.

In his defence, the accused denied having raped the complainant but agreed to the fact that the complainant boarded his taxi on the day in question and that he refused to take the taxi fare of the complainant. The court rejected his version and found him guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Bertha Kotsedi brought to the attention of the court, the age of the complainant, the inflicted bodily injuries sustained by the complainant and that the accused did not show any sign of remorse for the offence committed. She submitted that the accused did not show any remorse despite the overwhelming evidence against him. Kotsedi further submitted that rape is a gruesome violation of the complainant's rights to dignity, privacy and security. She concluded by asking the court not to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence.

Handing down the judgement, the court held that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence.

The DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga commended the investigating team and the prosecutor in charge for their persistence in ensuring that the accused is punished for his conduct.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi

Regional Communications Manager

DPP: Limpopo