

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE

The Giyani Regional Court sentenced Edward Mathapa (42) to life imprisonment for rape of a 14 year-old girl.

The court heard that on the day in question the complainant was on her way to her uncle's homestead for a braai to celebrate the New Year. While walking alone, the accused who happened to be her neighbor grabbed and dragged her to the nearest bush and raped her several times.

In his defense, he denied having raped the complainant and exercised his right to remain silent. The DNA evidence was adduced by the state, which clearly linked him to the offence. The court found him guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, the State Prosecutor, Norman Makhubele brought to the attention of the court, the age of the complainant and the inflicted bodily injuries sustained by the minor. He submitted that the accused did not show any remorse despite the overwhelming evidence against him. Makhubele said rape is a gruesome violation of the complainant's rights to dignity, privacy and security. He concluded by asking the court not to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence.

In handing down the judgement, the court held that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances which deserves the court to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence and gave him life imprisonment.

The DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to those who commit similar offences.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang
Regional Communications Manager
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