

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE OF A MINOR

The Mokopane Regional Court sentenced a 33 year-old man to life imprisonment for the rape of a six year-old girl. The identity of the accused is concealed because he is related to the child.

The trial court heard how on the day in question the accused came back home at midnight and took the child from the bedroom where she was sleeping and took her to a sofa in the sitting room where he raped her.

Whilst busy, the aunt of the child who also happens to be the accused common law wife heard noises and when she went to the sitting room, she found the accused on top of the child. She confronted the accused who jumped up and left the scene. Later, police were called and the child was taken to the clinic and it was confirmed that she was indeed raped.

In court, he denied the allegation and maintained that the aunt implicated him falsely. The DNA evidence was adduced by the state, which clearly linked him to the offence. The court found him guilty as charged.

The Regional Prosecutor, Liezl Del Frate drew the attention of the court to the age of the complainant and the bodily injuries sustained by the minor. She further lamented that the accused did not show any remorse despite the overwhelming evidence against him. She said rape is a gruesome violation of the complainant's right to dignity, privacy and security, concluding by asking the court to impose the prescribed minimum sentence.

Handing down the judgement, the court held that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances that justified deviation from minimum prescribed sentence and was therefore sentenced to 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 Communication Manager
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