

PRESS RELEASE



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR RAPE

Yesterday the Bhisho High Court sentenced Melumzi Tom (38) to life imprisonment for rape. This follows the conviction of Tom for raping a then 44 year-old woman at Lower Gwalana Administrative Area in Peddie during November 2015.

This is after Tom broke into the home of the victim and demanded money. He hit her with a firearm on the head and shot her on the leg. She then informed him where she kept her money which he in turn took.

Tom then raped her and thereafter fled the scene. He was subsequently arrested by Peddie members of Family Violence and Sexual Offences unit on 22 May 2018.

Tom was also sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for robbery, 10 years for housebreaking, 8 years for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, to 5 years for unlawful possession of a firearm, a further 5 years for unlawful possession of ammunition and 3 years for sexual assault. All these sentences will run concurrently with the sentence for life imprisonment.

During the sentence proceedings in court, the prosecutor for the case, Advocate Vatiswa Jodwana-Blayi, requested for the court to sentence the accused according to the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment with regard to rape.

She further requested for the court not to deviate from the minimum sentence as Tom was convicted of prevalent and serious offences and in addition showed no remorse.

The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Livingstone Sakata, said the following, "The NPA welcomes this sentence as it is sending a clear message that violence against

women is seen in a very serious light by our courts. We also congratulate the prosecutor for the case and the SAPS investigating team for the good work that they have done.”

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