

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 12 AUGUST 2020**

**RE: MAN GETS THREE LIFE TERMS FOR RAPING HIS SISTER AND COUSINS**

The High Court of South Africa: Eastern Cape Division, Mthatha, sitting in Ntabankulu, sentenced a 31 year-old man to three life imprisonment terms for raping his sister and two cousins.

The name of the convicted rapist is withheld to protect the identity of his victims. On 12 July 2014, the man was caught by his cousin, a teenage boy, raping his then 14 year-old sister at their home at Mahlabathini Village in the district of Mount Fletcher. Upon witnessing the rape, the cousin reported it to their grandmother and a neighbour, who is a health professional.

When interrogated about the incident, the young victim revealed that his brother had raped her before. The neighbour called the police and the man was arrested. While in police custody, two of the man's cousins also revealed that he had raped them once in 2011 when they were aged 11 and 8 years. They reported that they had informed their grandmother of their ordeal and she confronted the rapist but never reported the matter to the police.

Consequently, the state charged the man with three counts of rape and the matter was transferred to the High Court.

The man pleaded not guilty, denying ever touching his cousins, and claimed he had been fighting with his sister when his male cousin caught him red-handed. Judge Mbulelo Jolwana, found that the man's defence was highly improbable and convicted him based on the evidence of the victims, the teenage cousin's testimony, the neighbour and the mother of the two girls, an aunt to the rapist.

Arguing in aggravation of sentence, the state prosecutor, Advocate Luvuyo Pomolo, told the court that the rapist betrayed the trust of his young relatives, that he was supposed to protect, and appealed to the court to impose the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment for raping minor children. The court agreed.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and wishes to encourage victims of abuse in the hands of relatives to report the perpetrators to the police in order for them to face the full might of the law and for justice to be done.

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