

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 23 MARCH 2015**

**RE: TWO LIFE SENTENCES AND THREE YEARS FOR STANGER  
RAPIST**

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Selvan Govender (41) was sentenced to two terms of life imprisonment and an additional three years in the Stanger Regional Court on Friday, 20 March 2015. He was sentenced on four counts of rape, two counts of kidnapping and one count of theft he committed in 2009.

In April 2009, the accused lured the complainant (19) to a sugar cane field near the Tinley Manor area under the pretence of providing her with employment. The complainant, who was pregnant, was kept there against her will and raped twice.

Then in May, the accused kidnapped and raped a 17 year-old woman in the same sugar cane field. In this instance he had convinced the complainant's family to give him shelter for the night. When the adults had left home the next morning, the accused asked the complainant to accompany him to Stanger to do shopping. He lured her to the field and raped her twice. The accused also stole a cell phone from one of these complainants, thus resulting in the charge of theft.

The regional court prosecutor, Paul Nel led the evidence of the two complainants as well as an eye witness and the father of one of the complainants. DNA evidence further linked the accused to the offences.

In aggravation of sentence, Nel emphasised the seriousness of the offences. He also stressed that the accused was on parole (for a rape and abduction conviction in 1998) when he committed these offences. The complainants handed in victim impact statements where they expressed the trauma and embarrassment they experienced during the rape and even during the trial. This is because the accused had testified that the one complainant was a prostitute and that he was in a relationship with the other. The court rejected his versions.

Govender was given two life sentences for the rapes and abductions as well as a further three years for theft.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes this sentence as it reaffirms our commitment to the fight against crime; especially the scourge of gender based violence.

Kind Regards,

Issued by:

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