

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: NPA PLEASED WITH HIGH COURT DECISION TO UPHOLD LIFE IMPRISONMENT SENTENCE

The Director of Public Prosecutions of the Gauteng Division, Advocate Sibongile Mzinyathi welcomes the decision of the Pretoria High Court to uphold the life imprisonment sentence imposed on a man guilty of raping a 12 year-old.

In 2018, the Fochville Regional Court convicted Micheal Letsibane of statutory rape and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The victim is mentally disabled; she cannot hear, speak and see properly. The accused appealed both the conviction and sentence to the Pretoria High Court.

After considering the evidence and taking into account the effects this crime had on the victimised child, the high court upheld the conviction and sentence.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, advocate Mzinyathi said he hopes that the sentence will serve as a deterrent and sends out a clear message that sexual offences against women and children will not be tolerated.

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