

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 04 November 2014

RE: RAPIST GETS LIFE AND 15 YEARS

Thirty seven-year-old Qetelo Andile Pata pleaded guilty in the Pietermaritzburg Regional Court on 31 October 2014 for the sexual assault of one girl and the rape of another. The incidents took place on 05 March 2013 in the Kwa Haza area.

On that day, the accused, who was known to both girls, sexually assaulted the 13 year old complainant at his home. He was disturbed by the coughing of a passer-by and this allowed the girl to escape.

Three hours later he visited the second complainant, a 15 year old girl at her house and told her that he needed to talk to her. They walked back to the house where he raped her. Since she was unable to run away from him, he raped her more than once. In his plea, the accused told the court that he felt tempted to commit these acts when he saw the girls.

Pata was arrested after the complainants reported the incident to the police. The defence argued for the court to deviate from the minimum sentence on the grounds that the accused pleaded guilty and had showed remorse.

However, regional court prosecutor, Mariam Aboobaker argued that the court must have full consideration of what motivated the accused and what provoked his change of heart and whether he truly appreciates the consequences of his actions.

She further argued that Pata had a previous conviction for rape which is older than 10 years (and therefore could not be taken into account); the fact that the accused had served a sentence of 10 years previously for rape is a clear indication that he has total disregard for the law.

The court agreed with the state's argument and Pata was sentenced to one life term and 15 years imprisonment. The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Issued by:

Nathi Mncube

NPA Spokesperson

084 814 8364

media@npa.gov.za