

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 01 JULY 2021

RE: PASTOR AND GRANNY IN COURT FOR ARRANGED MARRIAGE OF A 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL

A 51-year-old pastor and a 66-year-old woman appeared in the Libode Magistrates' Court on charges relating to an arranged marriage between the pastor and the woman's 15-year-old granddaughter.

The pastor, who elected to be represented by a private attorney, is charged with statutory rape, statutory sexual assault and abduction.

The maternal grandmother of the victim is facing a charge of compelled rape for her role in agreeing that the minor is married to the pastor.

The man and the granny were arrested on Tuesday after the girl was rescued by police at the pastor's place of residence at KwaMlomo village in the Coza area of Libode district on Tuesday, 29 June. The Grade 8 learner had allegedly been the "wife" of the pastor since leaving home on 11 June. During this period, the man is alleged to have had sexual intercourse with her on numerous occasions. Lobola negotiations had also been conducted but no payment was made.

The prosecution did not oppose bail against the victim's grandmother and she was granted R500 bail. Her case was postponed to 19 August for further investigations. The minor is currently being kept at a place of safety.

The case against the pastor was postponed to next week Thursday, 08 July, for the police to profile the accused man for information for bail application.

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