

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 31 AUGUST 2017**

**RE: RAPIST GETS LIFE**

A 26 year-old man from Ezimangweni near Amanzimtoti was sentenced yesterday to a term of life imprisonment in the Emlazi Regional Court after being convicted of the rape of a six year-old girl.

The accused lived close to the complainant's home and on the day of the incident, she was walking on the road when he accosted her and dragged her to his house. Whilst he raped her, the child's mother arrived and demanded that the accused open the door. The accused took the child and placed her in a bath where he proceeded to bath her. Her mother forced open the door and found the accused bathing the child.

During the trial, the accused pleaded not guilty. Acting Regional Court Prosecutor, Nontsikelelo Qhunyiso led the evidence of the child, her mother, the guardian of the child and the doctor. The state also led the evidence of the child's teacher.

Further, victim impact statements facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Nomveliso Mabovu and compiled by the complainant and her guardian were handed in to the court. Here they expressed how the incident had affected them physically and emotionally, with the child becoming a very aggressive person.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu Natal, Advocate Moipone Noko had this to say, "I welcome both the sentence and conviction in this matter. What is distressing to note is the opportunistic nature of the accused, seeing the young child as an easy target and then using that to his advantage. I hope that this sentence will deter would-be offenders."

Kind Regards,

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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