

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 20 NOVEMBER 2018**

**RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

A 51 year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Empangeni Regional Court last week for the rape of his friend's daughter.

The incident happened in the Mkhmanga area near Empangeni where the accused lived. Since the complainant's father could not afford to take care of her, she was sent to live with the accused and his family. The accused enrolled her into a school and provided her with food and clothing. From December 2015 to January 2017, the accused would rape the child every time that his wife left the house.

He kept the child like a prisoner by watching her all the time. Due to the school being close to his home, the accused even watched the child from his yard. The girl eventually, escaped early one morning by jumping through a window and going back home where she reported the rape to her father.

Regional Court Prosecutor, Marcelle Jacobs (May) led the evidence of the complainant, her father and her school friend as well as a medical doctor who confirmed that the child's injuries were consistent with rape. She also handed in a victim impact statement compiled by the complainant and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Seneliso Sibanda. In the statement, the child explained the impact of the offence on her life.

The court sentenced the accused to life imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu Natal, Advocate Moipone Noko welcoming the sentencing said, "I believe that justice has been dispensed. This matter forms part of our continued pursuit of justice for violent acts perpetrated against the vulnerable, especially as the country heads towards the '16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children' campaign."

Kind Regards,

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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