

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

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RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE SENTENCES

A 56 year-old man from Botulo in Thaba Nchu was sentenced to two life sentences after he was found guilty of raping a 5 year-old girl by the Thaba Nchu Magistrate's Court. Magistrate Petra Jacobs sentenced the man who cannot be named as he is related to the complainant, for rape incidents that happened in 2014 when the complainant was 5 years old and in 2016 when she was 7 years old.

The accused is the uncle to the mother of the complainant and they were both staying with him. The mother is originally from Zimbabwe. She was aware that the accused had violated the complainant but the accused instructed her not to report the incidents or else he will inform the authorities that she is in South Africa illegally and will be deported back to Zimbabwe.

An organisation called World Vision, visited Botulo to interact with the children in the area. World Vision is a non-profit organisation that plays a role in child protection. During the interaction with the complainant, officials from World Vision realised that the complainant has been abused. They contacted the social workers who reported the matter to the police after the complainant had confirmed that indeed she has been abused by the accused.

In court, State Prosecutor Kano Losaba, requested the court to impose the minimum sentence as prescribed by law because the accused took an advantage of the complainant whereas he should have been the one to protect her.

"The accused betrayed the trust that the complainant and her mother had in him. He threatened the mother with deportation if she reports the incident and that resulted in the mother betraying her own child as she did not want to be deported", said Losaba.

Magistrate Jacobs was not convinced that the accused had provided the court with compelling and substantial circumstances for the court not to impose a life sentence. She subsequently sentenced the accused to two life sentences. She also declared the accused unfit to possess a firearm and his name to be included in the National Register for Sex Offenders.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

051 410 6152

pshuping@mpa.gov.za