

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE TERMS PLUS 53 YEARS

A 28 year-old man from Welkom was yesterday sentenced to two life terms and additional 53 years by the Welkom Sexual Offences Court. Magistrate Deon van Rooyen found Isaac Pita guilty on two counts of rape, four counts of indecent assault and two counts of compelling children to witness a sexual offence.

According to evidence presented in court, Pita raped the first victim who was nine years old at the time, in June 2006. He forced the complainant at knife point to walk with him to a nearby construction area and raped her.

In August 2006, he threatened a 9 year-old girl who was walking with her 7 year-old friend with a knife and forced them to accompany him to a nearby school. He raped the 9 year-old girl while the other girl was watching.

The two cases were closed as the minors could not identify the accused. The accused however, continued with his crime spree when he raped two girls aged 11 and 8 years-old in March 2016. He forced one girl to watch as he raped the other.

One of these girls knew his name and he was arrested a few days later. The DNA results came back positive and linked him to the two incidents of 2006. One of the victims in the 2006 rapes, did not want to come and testify but the State Prosecutor, Charmaine Labuschagne, proceeded based on the linkage and the fact that she could not consent in any manner as she was ten years old.

Labuschagne requested the court to impose heavy sentence on the accused because he is a serial rapist who preyed on vulnerable girls who were in no possession to defend themselves against a grown up man who was carrying a knife.

"The actions of the accused are serious, despicable and against the community. In light of the evidence that is in front of the court about the nature of these crimes and the attitude of the accused towards the crimes he has committed, the only reasonable decision that the court could come to, is a lengthy term of direct imprisonment," said Labuschagne.

Magistrate van Rooyen concurred with the prosecutor and sentenced Pita to life sentence for each of the two counts of rape, 12 years for each of the four counts of indecent assault and five years for each of the two counts of compelling children to witness sexual offence.

Pita will effectively serve two life sentences plus 53 years after the magistrate ordered the sentences for compelling a child to witness a sexual offence to run concurrently.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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