

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: REPEAT RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE PLUS 28 YEARS

On Monday, 30 September 2019, the Butterworth Regional Court sentenced Mzwandile Nomevu (34) to life imprisonment and an additional 28 years after he was found guilty on two counts of rape and one count of attempted rape. The court convicted and sentenced the rapist to a life term for raping a nine-year-old girl, 18 years for raping an 18-year-old Walter Sisulu University (WSU) student and ten years for attempted rape against a 10-year-old girl. All the offences were committed in Bika Township in the district of Butterworth.

Evidence presented in court is that on 17 February 2016, Nomevu approached a group of children who were playing on the street. He lured two of the children to a dilapidated house in the neighbourhood under false promises that he was to fix a phone he would give to them to play games.

On arrival at the disused house, he took the nine-year-old girl inside through a broken window and raped her while the second child stood outside. He then took the ten-year-old into the house and stripped her naked. However, an alert boy who had been earlier playing with the two girls followed them and pipped through the window. He managed to scream and alerted passers-by to what was happening before Nomevu could rape the second girl. Community members cornered him and he was handed to the police.

While in custody, the police managed to link Nomevu to another rape incident, which took place on 23 September 2013, during which a WSU student was raped at night while walking to her rented room in Bika Township. The student had had a fight with her boyfriend and met Nomevu who was with his pack of dogs. The rapist acted as if he was concerned with her safety and volunteered to accompany her but on the way he threatened her with his dogs and took her to a disused shack in the area, where he raped her at knife-point. After raping the student, Nomevu forced her to bath before he fell asleep. The student managed to escape to a nearby homestead and the owner of

that homestead accompanied her back to where they found the rapist still sleeping with his pack of dogs still on guard. When approached, Nomevu fled but not before he could be identified by the owner of the homestead who had come to the rescue of the victim.

During trial, Nomevu denied raping the two children and claimed that he had consensual sexual intercourse with the 18-year-old student. In respect of the rape and attempted rape of the minor children, prosecutor Jongikhaya Dudumashe led the evidence of the two victims and that of the young boy and submitted a J88 report, which confirmed that the nine-year-old had been raped. He further led evidence of the former WSU student and the man that assisted her after the rape, and Nomevu was found guilty as charged on all counts.

In aggravation of sentence, prosecutor Dudumashe prayed for the harshest sentence, stating that the rape of children and women was of epidemic proportions in the country, and Magistrate Mkhethi Vellem concurred, and did not order the sentences to run concurrently.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded rapists who intend targeting defenceless women and children.

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