

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: SERIAL RAPIST SENTENCED TO 5 LIFE PLUS 200 YEARS

Bheki Doctor Magwaza (47) of Waterloo in Verulam was sentenced to 5 life terms and 200 years imprisonment in the Durban High Court on Tuesday after pleading guilty to the string of offences including rapes, compelled sexual assaults and compelling a person to witness a sexual offence that he committed during the period of September 2008 to February 2016.

The accused worked as an armoury officer for a security guard company and preyed on women between the ages of 14 and 35 years-old who resided in the Verulam, KwaDabeka and Waterloo areas. He attacked them while they were either going to or returning from home or work. He would threaten them with a firearm, demanding valuables. When they said they didn't have anything, they were forced into a bush and raped.

On some occasions, the complainants were in the company of others who were forced to watch the rapes. The female companions were also raped. When the complainants were with male companions, the accused forced them to engage in sexual acts with the complainants. One complainant was accosted while she was walking with her 6 month-old baby on her back. The accused raped her then asked her if the infant was a girl or a boy. She lied that the baby was a boy. The accused then left her.

In aggravation of sentence, Senior State Advocate Noxolo Dube led the evidence of one complainant who was so emotionally scarred that she could not finish her testimony. Adv Dube handed in victim impact statements that were compiled by the complainants. The NPA Court Preparation Officers who facilitated the victim impact statements were Bongiwwe Qwabe and Xolile Mzobe. Adv Dube also advised the court that the state had an overwhelming case against the accused as he was linked via DNA to all of the offences.

The accused was sentenced as follows: 5 life terms and 130 years imprisonment for the rapes and 70 years imprisonment for the 10 counts of compelled sexual assault and for compelling the companions to witness the rapes.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Advocate Moipone Noko views this sentence as very appropriate given the crimes committed. "This excellent sentence should go a long way in addressing the scourge of sexual violence in our province. I hope that the complainants get some consolation in the fact that justice has been dispensed", she said.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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