

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 19 MAY 2020**

**RE: STEPFATHER SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE TERMS FOR RAPE**

Yesterday, the KwaMhlanga Regional Court sentenced a 42-year-old man of Tweefontein to two life terms after he was convicted on two counts of raping his 14-year-old step daughter between March and April 2015.

The court heard that the victim's mother went to attend a traditional ceremony training when these incidents happened. The accused took the victim to his parental home where the first incident happened and again on their way back, he pulled off on the road and forcefully raped her under the bridge. The victim reported the ordeal to her sister and her mother and the authorities were alerted, hence his arrest.

In court, the accused denied the allegations levelled against him until the state presented DNA evidence linking him to the rape. However the accused disputed the accuracy of the DNA evidence. The Regional Court Prosecutor, Bianca Harmse, led testimonies of the victim, the first report and that of the forensic nurse. The J88 confirmed penetration with injuries to the victim's private part and the accused was found guilty as charged.

Addressing the court for a harsh sentence, the state emphasised the seriousness of the offence and that it was committed against a child by her own stepfather who was supposed to protect and care for her in the absence of her mother. The state submitted that there were no substantial or compelling circumstances to deviate from the prescribed sentence of life.

The accused was sentenced to two life terms. He was found unfit to possess a firearm. The accused was also found unsuitable to work with children. The court further ordered that the name of the accused be entered into the National Register for Sex Offenders and that his employer be notified.

The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Matric Luphondo applauds the good work done by the team in addressing the scourge of gender based violence in our society.

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