

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 23 APRIL 2021**

**RE: TAXI OPERATORS GET LIFE FOR RAPE OF MATRIC LEARNER**

The Parow Sexual Offences Court has sentenced a taxi driver and his guard, Giovanni Florence and Jerome van Wyk to life imprisonment following their conviction for the rape of a matric learner on her way home from attending extra classes.

On 08 March 2018, the 17-year-old matriculant attended an extra class at her school in the Kraaifontein area. Arrangements were made that a teacher from her school would give her a lift home to Delft. Unfortunately, the teacher's vehicle broke down on the way home. The teacher assisted her to get into a taxi which Florence was driving and Van Wyk was a guard.

Specialist sexual offences prosecutor, Advocate Dercia Rabie told the court that Florence did not stop at the place where she was supposed to be dropped off and drove to a deserted place where both of them raped her. The two 27-year-old men were arrested within days and were convicted on a charge of rape.

During the trial, Advocate Rabie argued that the learner was dependent on public transport to get to school and back home. The accused acted opportunistically and took advantage of the learner when she was alone in the taxi with them.

"South Africa is in a pandemic in respect of gender-based violence. As a result of this attack, the learner has suffered immense trauma. The fact that she successfully completed her matric was not to the benefit of the accused. She showed strength irrespective of the fact that it was difficult to concentrate at school. She became afraid to travel to school and back home. She indicated in her Victim Impact Statement that she was afraid of men because of the incident", she argued.

She added that the court was not to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence due to flimsy reasons provided by the defense.

The court agreed and indicted in its judgement that substantial and compelling circumstances do not exist and sentenced both accused to life imprisonment.

The NPA welcomed the sentence.

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**National Prosecuting Authority**

**Regional Communications Manager**

**Western Cape**

**Tel: (021) 487 7308 Mobile: 073 062 1222**

**Email: [entabazalila@npa.gov.za](mailto:entabazalila@npa.gov.za)**