

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

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

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: UNCLE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE

The Morebeng Sexual Offences Court sentenced a 31 year-old man to life imprisonment yesterday for the rape of his 20-year-old niece. The accused cannot be named to protect the complainant's identity.

The court heard that the accused and the complainant were sharing a common homestead along with other family members. On 27 June 2016 the accused was released on parole for the robbery committed in 2014. Upon his arrival at the homestead, he found the complainant busy in the kitchen with her house chores. He grabbed her, threatened her with violence and demanded to have sexual intercourse with her. When the complainant refused, the accused stabbed her thrice with a screwdriver. Realising the gravity of the situation, the complainant submitted herself to the accused who proceeded to rape her.

The accused was caught in the act by other family members and was duly apprehended and handed to the police. He pleaded guilty to the charges and the court found him guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence the State Prosecutor, Advocate Norman Makhubele, handed in the Victim Impact Report. The report showed that the ordeal had traumatised the complainant whose school performance had dropped. Advocate Makhubele further emphasised that it was aggravating that the accused acted like a predator towards his niece whom he was supposed to protect. He said he was a repeat offender and showed very little respect for the law. He concluded by asking the court to impose minimum sentence of life imprisonment.

The court found that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the minimum sentence and sentenced him to life imprisonment. He was also

declared unfit to possess a firearm and his name will be registered in the National Register for Sex Offenders.

Welcoming the sentence, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Ivy Thenga remarked, "It is disgusting to note the way in which the uncle abused his position of trust and abandoned his duty of protecting his niece by destroying her future".

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi- Dzhang
Regional Spokesperson- Limpopo
0748233603
mmalabi@npa.gov.za