Man, 39, bags 10 years for rape in Enugu

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Man, 39, bags 10 years for rape in Enugu  
  
An Enugu State High Court on Wednesday sentenced a 39 year old man, Ede Eze to 10 years imprisonment for rape.  
  
The trial judge, Justice Ngozi Oji had on Tuesday, last week, convicted the accused on a one count charge but subsequently suspended the sentence till Wednesday. ‎  
  
The charge reads: “Ede Eze on or about the 2nd day of September, 2014 at Ubahu Community in Enugu East Local Government area of Enugu state had carnal knowledge of one Oluchukwu John without her consent, and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 309 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 30 volume II laws of Enugu state of Nigeria, 2004”.  
  
However, pronouncing the 10 years jail term the court said it was to serve as a deterrent to others who see rape as just something ordinary or minor.  
  
The judge stressed that it was disheartening that rape cases have become prevalent in our society.  
  
The prosecuting counsel, Ngozi Okoye, thanked the judge for the courage to hand down the 10 years sentence.  
  
She said the sentence was in order and is a welcome development due to the prevalence of rape not only in Enugu state but also in other parts of the country.  
  
She encouraged other women who have been abused or had gone through any form of sexual violence to come to Tama Sexual Assault Centre Enugu (TAMASAC), report their case for immediate redress.  
  
Okoye warned those in the act of rape to know that rape is a crime, “not only against an individual but also against the society. The long arm of the law will definitely catch-up with you if you are found guilty of rape.”  
  
The Enugu State Commissioner, Ministry of Gender Affairs, Princess Peace Nnaji, who was in the court said that with the judgment, history has been made. “People are taking the case of rape for granted but today they have seen that case of rape is very serious. To hand down a jail term of 10 years is not something to be joked with. Anybody that is involve in a rape or contemplating of raping anybody has to think twice.”  
  
She promised that Enugu State government would continue to do everything possible to dissuade those contemplating committing rape in the state.