

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 11 JUNE 2019**

**RE: FATHER SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPING HIS DAUGHTERS**

On Friday 07 June 2019, a 50 year-old man from Thulamela Municipality area was sentenced by the High Court sitting in Thohoyandou to two life for two counts of rape of his daughters.

The accused who is the biological father of the two girls used to sexually abuse the girls during the day and night between the period of October 2014 until 10 April 2016 in their homestead. Both girls were under the age of 16 at the time of offence. The accused impregnated the younger daughter who gave birth to a baby girl. In respect of the first count of rape, the accused was linked through DNA.

In court, the accused pleaded not guilty on all two counts preferred against him. The state called the complainants, a member of non-governmental organization (NGO) aimed at assisting sexual abuse victims and their mother. The state also led DNA evidence which proved that the child was fathered by the accused. With the overwhelming evidence presented by the state, the court found him guilty as charged.

During aggravation of sentence, Advocate Nnyambeni Nekhambele submitted that the accused abused his position of trust as a parent who was expected to protect his daughters from any form of abuse. He further argued that this type of crime deserved the ultimate sentence, the life imprisonment, as it was a horrific act. He said the accused was a menace who deserved to be removed permanently from the society. He concluded by submitting that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances justifying a lesser sentence in the case.

Judge Mohamed Ishmael handed down the sentence where he condemned Ndebele's actions, saying they are of detriment to society.

In passing sentence, the court remarked that rape is a serious offence, constituting a humiliating, degrading and brutal invasion of privacy and dignity. The court agreed with submissions of the state that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances and sentenced the accused to two life imprisonment sentences. The sentence on count two was ordered to run concurrently with the sentence on count one.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Ivy Thenga welcomed the decision and expressed hope that would-be sexual predators will be deterred by the sentence. She further encouraged communities to report this type of crime to the police.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi- Dzhang**  
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