

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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**RE: HAMMER RAPIST GOT FOUR LIFE TERMS PLUS 259 YEARS
IMPRISONMENT**

David Mamvura (27) was sentenced to four life imprisonment plus 259 years by the Limpopo High Court yesterday following his conviction on 31 counts. Of the 31 counts, 10 were of rape, 8 housebreaking with intent to rape, 3 for attempted murder, 9 for robbery with aggravating circumstances and 1 count of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The court heard that during the period of October 2012 to August 2014 Mamvura terrorised the community of Polokwane especially in the suburbs of Eduan Park and Bendor. He struck during the night and in early hours of the morning. He would attack the complainants in their homes by gaining entrance through the window or door. Upon his entry in these various homesteads, the accused would strike the complainants with a hammer or threaten them with knife and screw driver before rapping them. He would then demand cash, laptops, jewellerys, mobile phones and other valuables items on his way out.

In one of the incidents, he raped a 15-year-old minor girl and a 74-year-old woman. In another incident, the accused even hit the complainant's head with a hammer until his brain protruded from his head when he was trying to protect his wife. The accused's identity was unknown to most of the complainants.

During trial, he pleaded not guilty and denied all the charges against him. In his defence, the accused claimed that all complainants are falsely implicating him, as he never entered the homesteads in question. However, the state led the evidence of two complainants who positively identified the accused as the culprit. The state further led DNA evidence which linked him to all crimes. The court accepted the evidence of the state witnesses, convicted him of all 31 counts and rejected his version.

In aggravation of sentence, the State Prosecutor, Advocate Samuel Ngobeni, submitted that the accused did not show any remorse despite the overwhelming evidence against him and maintained his innocence throughout the trial. Advocate Ngobeni further submitted that the rapes were gruesome and in violation of the complainant's rights to dignity, privacy and life. He further argued that the violent manner in which the offences were committed coupled with interest of the community far much outweighed the personal circumstances of the accused.

Judge Francis Kganyago indicated that the accused must be removed from the society as a measure of protecting innocent women. His personal circumstances taken cumulatively does not amount to substantial and compelling circumstances justifying deviation from imposing the minimum sentence, he said. The judge said what the accused did was inhumane. Consequently, he sentenced him to four life imprisonment plus 259 years and ordered the sentences to run concurrently with the life imprisonment.

The accused's leave to appeal against conviction and sentence was turned down.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the Director of Public Prosecutions commended the investigating team, the witnesses and advocate Ngobeni for their persistence in ensuring that the accused is dully punished for his crimes.

Kind Regards,

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