

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 28 JUNE 2019

**RE: MEN SENTENCED TO FOUR LIFE IMPRISONMENT TERMS FOR RAPE
PLUS 15 YEARS FOR ROBBERY**

The Regional Court in Limpopo sitting at Ga-Matlala sentenced Dennis Mohlahlo (27) and Philemon Mlambo (36) to two life imprisonment terms each for two counts of rape and a further 15 year for robbery with aggravating circumstances. Their co accused, William Rampao (32) who was convicted of a count of robbery with aggravating circumstances was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

The rape incidents occurred in 2017 when the heavily armed accused entered the sleeping quarters of Matlala tavern during the night. They entered one of the rooms where they found two elderly complainants sleeping. Flashing their knives and firearm they ordered them to undress before taking turns to rape them. The accused used condoms during the rapes. They further took their stock and some personal belongings which included mobile phones, cash and clothes.

The accused were arrested a few weeks later through the assistance of their co accused who turned state witness. They were found in possession of some of the items stolen at the scene.

The accused pleaded not guilty to both counts and denied the allegations against them. However the court found them guilty as charged.

The state called both complainants and the other State witness who testified that he was present during the commission of the robbery and he was instructed to wait outside and observe. He also assisted in taking some of the items from the house. He further testified that as they left the scene accused one and two bragged about raping the old women and also showed the condoms used during the rapes.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Andisa Vavilova Mudau argued that the accused displayed absolute lack of respect for dignity of women and people in general. This was demonstrated by the fact that after terrorizing and raping the victims they proceeded to rob them of their possessions. The offence took place in their sanctuary where they least expected to be attacked.

Mudau asked the court to impose the prescribed minimum sentences upon the accused since they did not show remorse for their horrific deeds.

The DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga applauds the excellent work of all stakeholders involved and hopes that the sentence will serve as a deterrent to those who think of committing similar offences.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi- Dzhangi

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo

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