

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 02 JUNE 2017

RE: NEIGHBOUR SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR RAPE & 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR ARMED ROBBERY

Mabaya Masala (26) of Themba Luvhilo village in the Nzhelele area was sentenced to life imprisonment for rape and 15 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances on Tuesday by the Dzanani Regional Court in Makhado.

The court heard that on the night of 01 August 2015, Mabaya went to his neighbour and entered through the window. He forcefully sexually penetrated the victim without her consent. After raping the victim, he stabbed the victim three times with a knife and took her three cell phones and left the scene. The victim went to her neighbour and asked for assistance. She was taken to hospital and the neighbours summoned the police. The accused was later arrested.

He pleaded not guilty; however he was found guilty as charged following a brief trial. The State Prosecutor Rabelani Makhera led the evidence of the witness who accompanied the victim to the hospital.

In mitigation the accused's lawyer requested the court to treat him with mercy as he is a first offender.

In aggravation of sentence, Makhera requested the court to pass a very harsh sentences. "What the accused did was inhumane and that the abuse of women cannot be tolerated. Women have the right to feel safe all the time and especially when they are in the comfort of their homes," he said.

The court indicated that it couldn't find anything substantial justifying deviation from the minimum sentence. However, the court ordered the robbery sentence to run concurrent with the life sentence for rape.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga
applauded prosecutor Makhera for a job well done.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi- Dzhangi

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