

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST GETS LIFE PLUS EIGHT YEARS IMPRISONMENT

Last week Thursday, Ndamulelo Tshitimbi (25) of Tshwinga village was sentenced to life imprisonment plus eight years by the Limpopo High Court sitting in Thohoyandou, following his conviction on rape and two counts of robbery.

The court heard that after sunset on 16 June 2015, the accused and his unknown accomplice came across the complainant and her male companion who were walking from the University of Venda and stopped them on their journey. The accused threatened the pair and grabbed the complainant whom they took turns to rape. They further instructed the male friend to take his clothes off before proceeding to rob them of their mobile phones, student cards and money. After the ordeal, both complainants ran to the university to report the incident and to seek help.

The accused was later arrested upon being found in possession of the complainant's mobile phone. His accomplice remains unknown.

During the trial, he pleaded not guilty and denied all the charges against him. In his defence, he chose to remain silent. However, the state led the evidence of three witnesses who positively identified him as the culprit. The state further led DNA evidence which linked him to the crimes. The court accepted the evidence of the state witnesses and convicted him of three counts.

In aggravation of sentence, the State Prosecutor, Advocate Wendy Nekhavhambe, submitted that the accused did not show any remorse despite the overwhelming evidence against him. Advocate Nekhavhambe further submitted that the rapes were a gruesome violation of the complainant's rights to dignity, privacy and security. She further argued that the personal circumstances were outweighed by the seriousness of the offence.

The court found that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the minimum sentence and further remarked that the accused did not show any remorse as he kept on laughing throughout the trial. He was sentenced to life imprisonments plus eight years.

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

Kind Regards,

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