

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**RE: RAPIST GOT 35 YEARS IMPRISONMENT**

On Thursday, 21 September 2017, Azwimbavhi Netshitungulu Daswa (26) was sentenced to 35 years imprisonment in the Thohoyandou Local Division of Limpopo High Court after he was convicted of rape.

The court heard that the accused raped a 15 year-old girl on 25 November 2015 at Vhufuli village in the Vhembe district. The victim resides in the same area as the accused. The accused found her in the river with her two friends. He threatened them with a knife and instructed all the girls to wait for their turn.

The incident was reported and the accused was arrested. Immediately, when the charge was put to the accused he pleaded guilty and the court found him guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor Advocate Ratshilumela Makhera submitted to the court that rape degrades, humiliates and dehumanizes the victim. He further indicated that rape is rife in the Vhembe district and requested the court to sentence the accused to a long term imprisonment.

Judge Nare Kgomo indicated that there is a misconception that rape becomes more gruesome only if the victim sustained injuries, that is totally against our law, he said. The court further mentioned that the accused will have to go to prison for a long time so that he can get rehabilitated and become a good community member.

The court concurred with the state and sentenced the accused to 35 years imprisonment.

The DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga commended Advocate Makhera for a job well done.

Kind Regards,

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