

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 07 APRIL 2017

RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO 10 LIFE SENTENCES

Tshelani Edwin Risimati (35) from Tshikundamalema village in the district of Mutale, Thohoyandou was sentenced to 10 life imprisonment plus 15 years after he was convicted of raping nine elderly women.

According to evidence presented in court, the accused pounced upon elderly women while harvesting at their orchards. With the victims close-by he would cover his face with a T-shirt to conceal his identity. His modus operandi was also to tie his victims with a rope before raping them. This made it difficult for witnesses to identify him. He was linked by DNA.

During trial, he pleaded guilty and was duly found guilty as charged by the court.

The State Prosecutor, Advocate Zwondangani Mabodi led the evidence of two victims who testified that they are all on HIV treatment since the ordeal. He said the victims were still traumatised and devastated by the accused's actions.

The Judge, Maake Francis Kganyago labelled the accused as a wolf who preyed on defenceless, elderly women and found that the impact of the crimes outweigh his personal circumstances and sentenced him to ten life imprisonment plus 15 years. The victims expressed relief to see the matter coming to an end.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga hopes this sentence will send the message that crime does not pay.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo

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