

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 04 JULY 2018

RE: SERIAL RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

The Limpopo High Court sitting in Polokwane sentenced Lawrence Thabang Msiza (23) of Dindela village to life imprisonment for three counts of rape, 10 years imprisonment for sexual assault, six years imprisonment for theft, and 15 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances.

The court heard that between 11 April 2012 and 15 May 2015 the accused had subjected his community to a reign of terror. The accused would come across with the complainants in the streets, threaten them with a knife, drag them into the bushes and demand sex from them. The accused would also rob the complainants off their personal belongings.

In one of the incidents, the complainant lied that she was HIV positive in order to prevent the accused from raping her but he insisted on oral sex.

During the trial, he pleaded not guilty to the charges. However, the state presented DNA evidence linking him to the offences. The court found him guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, the State Prosecutor, Advocate Calvin Chauke submitted that the accused violated the complainant's rights to privacy, dignity and bodily integrity and that the court should take into account that rape has a lingering post-traumatic effect. In his conclusion, he indicated that after the accused's first rape, he did not stop, instead he continued to prey on innocent women and that the accused did not show remorse despite the overwhelming evidence against him.

The court found that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the minimum sentences and imposed life imprisonment on the accused.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang
Regional Communications Manager
DPP: Limpopo