

Media Statement



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TO : ALL MEDIA

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RE : TEN LIFE IMPRISONMENT TERMS FOR RAPE, HOUSE BREAKING AND ROBBERY

Yesterday, the Limpopo Local Division sitting at Thohoyandou sentenced Tinashe Max Makisi Virima (32) to 10 life imprisonment terms plus 159 years. The accused was charged with 26 counts including rapes, robbery with aggravating circumstances, kidnapping, assault with intention to do grievously bodily harm as well as housebreakings.

The said offences were committed between 2013 up until March 2015. The accused committed rapes and robbery counts in the company of his friends. They would ambush the complainants in their cars or in the bush or collecting firewood and they would rob them and proceeded to rape the female victims. Some of the victims would be raped after their houses were broken into.

The accused pleaded not guilty to all the charges and elected to remain silent. The state represented by Advocate Zwodangani Mabodi, led the oral and DNA evidence. During the cross-examination of the state, the accused's version was that it was impossible for him to have committed the alleged offences because during the period between 2013 to 2015 he was in Mhike village Masvingo Province in Zimbabwe.

Advocate Mabodi strongly argued that the court must reject the alibi of the defence on the basis that some complainants knew the accused prior the incidents, in some instances the accused had not covered his face. He further argued that DNA evidence which linked the accused to the crimes cannot be escaped.

In his judgment, Judge Jackson Mushasha agreed with the submissions by the state and rejected the version of the accused and accordingly convicted the accused on 26 counts.

Advocate Mabodi addressed the court in aggravation of sentence, and submitted that the accused failed to show the court that there were substantial and compelling circumstances justifying a deviation from imposing the prescribed minimum sentences. The court imposed the prescribed life sentences in the rape and 15 years each in the robbery with aggravating circumstances counts.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Limpopo welcomes the sentence and commends the Advocate Mabodi who secured the conviction and sentence.

Kind Regards

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhangi

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