

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

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RE: YOUNG MAN GOT LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Rofhiwa Duncan Mbedzi (21) was handed two life sentences for two counts of rape, 12 years imprisonment for murder, 15 years for business robbery, six years for housebreaking with intent to steal, three years for theft and five years' imprisonment on each of the three counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm by the High Court sitting in Thohoyandou.

During trial, the court heard that between 2011 and 2015 the accused terrorized the community of Tswinga village. His criminal acts took place during the night, on the streets, various homesteads and at Blondi's Tavern.

He pleaded not guilty and was found guilty of the above charges on 14 June 2017. In aggravation of sentence the state prosecutor, Advocate Nnyambeni Nekhambele argued that the accused raped victims more than once in a violent manner. He also submitted that the accused was dangerous to the community of Tswinga. He asked the court that he be deemed unsuitable to work with children and that his name be entered into the National Register of Sex Offenders.

The court indicated that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances justifying deviation from the minimum sentence. However, the court sentenced the accused to two life sentences which were ordered to run concurrently with other sentences stated above. The effective sentence is life imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions Advocate Ivy Thenga, welcomes the sentence and hope that it has the necessary deterrent effect on would-be offenders.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang
Regional Spokesperson, DPP- Limpopo
Cell: 074 823 3603